



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

**JUN 17 2019**

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to enter into contracts with Tribes, Tribal organizations, States, schools, and private non-sectarian organizations to address the educational needs of Indian students. Congress recently updated the JOM Act to clarify the eligibility requirements for Indian students to receive the benefits of a JOM contract, to clarify the funding formula and process to ensure full participation of contracting parties, and to otherwise reconcile and modernize the rule to comport with the activities of the contracting parties under the Act, as amended.

The Bureau of Indian Education is proposing to update its JOM regulations to implement the JOM Act updates, address include comments received from the proposed rule published on March 21, 2018 (83 FR 12301), and put the regulations in a more reader-friendly format. The proposed rule is being published in the Federal Register and is also available at the following website:

<https://www.bie.edu/JOM/>

We will be hosting Tribal consultation sessions on the proposed rule from on the following dates:

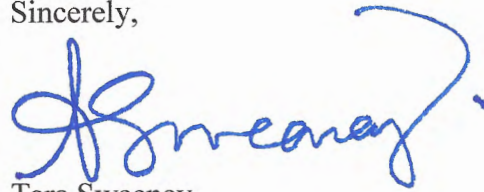
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
July 16, 2019	8 a.m. – 10 a.m. (Local Time)	Sequoyah High School 17091 S. Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah, OK 74464
July 19, 2019	9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Local Time)	Bismarck, ND – Please check <a href="https://www.bie.edu/JOM">https://www.bie.edu/JOM</a> for specific location
July 23, 2019	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (MDT) (teleconference)	Please see <a href="https://www.bie.edu/JOM">https://www.bie.edu/JOM</a> for access information
July 25, 2019	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (MDT) (teleconference)	Please see <a href="https://www.bie.edu/JOM">https://www.bie.edu/JOM</a> for access information

We regret that, due to the exceptional circumstances of the lapse in appropriations earlier this year and statutory deadline for completion of rulemaking, we have not been able to provide more advance notice of these dates. We will also be holding afternoon sessions for the following eligible entities, which you are also welcome to join: existing JOM contractors, potential JOM contractors, JOM Indian Education Committee members, Tribal organizations, employees of public schools serving American Indian students, urban Indian communities,

the BIE's previously provide schools, Indian school boards, parents, student organizations and other interested parties. Please check the website listed above for specifics on the venues and other updates.

If you would like to provide written input, please email your input to [consultation@bia.gov](mailto:consultation@bia.gov) by the comment deadline listed on the above website. Please contact Ms. Elizabeth Appel at (202) 273-4680 or [elizabeth.appel@bia.gov](mailto:elizabeth.appel@bia.gov) if you have any questions regarding the updates to these regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tara Sweeney", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Tara Sweeney

Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs