



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Honorable Kevin Skenandore
Interim Director
Bureau of Indian Education
1849 C Street, NW MS -3609 MIB
Washington, District of Columbia 20240

MAY 8 2008

Dear Director Skenandore:

A team from the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs (SASA) office monitored the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) in three phases during the fall of 2007 – the first team visited the Pine Ridge Education Line Office (ELO) in October, another the Hopi ELO in November, and a third the Southern Pueblo ELO in December, as well as the BIE central administrative offices in Albuquerque. This was a comprehensive review of BIE's administration of the Title I, Part A program authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by *the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB).

In conducting this comprehensive review, the ED team carried out a number of major activities. In reviewing the Title I, Part A program, the ED team conducted an analysis of State assessments and State Accountability System Plans, reviewed the effectiveness of the instructional improvement and instructional support measures established by the BIE to benefit ELOs and schools, and reviewed compliance with fiscal and administrative oversight requirements of the State educational agency (SEA). During the onsite weeks, the ED team visited the three ELOs and interviewed administrative staff, visited three schools that have been identified for improvement, and conducted parent meetings. The ED team then interviewed BIE personnel to confirm data collected in each of the three monitoring indicator areas. Enclosed is a report based upon this review.

The 2007-2008 fiscal year begins the second year of the second full cycle of monitoring for these requirements under NCLB. Based on four years of monitoring, we have learned significantly more about the status of States, districts, and schools in implementing the requirements of Title I. For the first time, ED has collected data on critical compliance issues under NCLB in all States and entities. This knowledge has informed the current cycle of monitoring, and is reflected in the procedures and monitoring protocols utilized in the onsite review process.

The ESEA, as reauthorized by NCLB, has increased the emphasis on accountability for all students, and has focused on States' responsibilities to work with districts and schools to improve instruction and student achievement. ED will continue to work closely with States and entities to define their responsibilities in implementing the requirements of NCLB.

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Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation.

Monitoring for the Title I, Part A program will continue to be conducted in three broad areas – accountability; program improvement, parental involvement and options; and fiduciary responsibilities. Prior to, during, and following the onsite monitoring review, the ED team conducted a number of activities (described in the enclosed report) to verify compliance with the critical monitoring indicators in each of the three broad areas.

The enclosed report contains a listing of the critical monitoring elements in each of the three areas, a description of the scope of the monitoring review, and the findings, required corrective actions and recommendations that the team cited as a result of the review. The BIE has 30 business days from receipt of this report to respond to all of the compliance issues contained herein. ED staff will review your response for sufficiency and will determine which areas are acceptable and which will require further documentation of implementation. ED will allow 30 business days for receipt of this further documentation, if required. ED recognizes that some corrective actions may require longer than the prescribed 30 days, and in these instances ED will work with you to determine a reasonable timeline. In those instances where additional time is required to implement specific corrective actions, you must submit a request for such an extension in writing to ED, including a timeline for completion of all related actions.

Each State or entity receiving Federal Title I funds that has significant compliance findings included in their monitoring report will have a condition placed on their grant award. The condition will specify that the State/entity must submit (and receive approval of) documentation that all compliance issues identified in the monitoring report have been corrected. When documentation sufficient to address all compliance areas has been submitted and approved, ED will then remove the condition from the grant award.

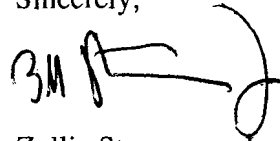
Please be aware that the issues presented in the enclosed report reflect the status of compliance at the time of SASA's onsite review. You may receive further communication from ED that will require you to address noncompliance occurring prior or subsequent to the onsite visit.

The ED team would like to thank Gaye Leia King and her staff for their hard work and the assistance they provided prior to and during the review in gathering materials and providing access to information in a timely manner. The ED team was impressed with the efforts of your staff to implement the numerous Title I requirements.

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We look forward to working further with your staff to resolve the issues contained in this report and to improve the quality of Title I programs in Bureau of Indian Education schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zollie Stevenson, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zollie Stevenson, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
Student Achievement and
School Accountability Programs

Enclosure

cc: Gaye Leia King