

Operation Safe and Secure Schools

The Operation Safe and Secure Schools' Team (OSASS) continues to work diligently in providing the safest learning environment possible for all Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) students and staff. Throughout the year, OSASS has provided training to schools throughout the country. The Team has visited many of our school sites to conduct safety procedure reviews, provide technical assistance, and update or complete many national policies directed toward the improvement of the safety at our schools.

The Sexual Abuse and Neglect Protocols (SCAN) were approved and are now available through the BIE's website. We've tried to address the concerns we heard from our constituents by providing more clarification and electronic forms that can be filled-in while on-line. The SCAN protocol was presented earlier this year at the BIE Administrators' Training held in March, on site at many schools or dorms and will soon be offered through the ELKNet System.

Over the past few months OSASS has conducted several school procedure reviews in order to improve the safety and security of our school sites. We are very aware that students who are surrounded in a safe and caring environment are better able to concentrate on their academics. The BIE currently has School Safety Specialists in the Western and Navajo regions. We are planning to have the School Safety Specialist in place for the Eastern region, in the very near future. These three Safety Specialists will be the BIE's points of contact to investigate incidents and review data from all of our school and residential sites.

These Safety Specialists provide the necessary skill sets for improving school safety throughout the BIE school system. BIE-funded schools should contact Mr. Eric North, School Safety Specialist for the West, or Mr. Desmond School Safety Specialist for Navajo, if they have a school safety topic they would like addressed at their school or if they need additional technical assistance to benefit their students and staff. Please contact Mr. North and Mr. Jones through the following e-mail addresses, respectively: eric.north@bie.edu or desmond.jones@bie.edu.)