



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Education
Division of Performance and Accountability
1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 149
Albuquerque, NM 87104

January 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Administrators

Associate Deputy Director Bureau-Operated Schools

Associate Deputy Director Tribally Controlled Schools

Associate Deputy Directors Navajo Schools

FROM: Associate Deputy Director, Division of Performance and Accountability

SUBJECT: Notice of Special Education Handbook Publication

Dear School Leader,

The Bureau of Indian Education (“BIE”) is responsible for ensuring that its implementation of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) is consistent with federal law including requirements at 20 U.S.C. §§ 1411(h)(2)(A) and 1412(a) and 34 C.F.R. § 300.708(a). Accordingly, BIE has updated the [Special Education Handbook](#).

The Special Education Handbook applies to all BIE-funded schools, including grant and contract schools and Bureau Operated Schools. When appropriate, Tribally Controlled Schools have flexibility to follow timelines and procedures established by the geographic state where they are located, and these instances are also included within the Handbook. The Handbook is intended only to set forth procedures for complying with BIE’s obligation to comply with IDEA and its regulations and does not create any independent or new rights, benefits, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

Sincerely,

Margo DeLaune
Associate Deputy Director
Division of Performance and Accountability