



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Education
Albuquerque Service Center
Division of Performance and Accountability
P.O. Box 1088
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-1088

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Memorandum

To: All Education Line Officers
All School Principals

From: Associate Deputy Director, Division of Performance and Accountability

Subject: Native American Student Information System Special Education Forms

The process to include the special education forms in the Native American Student Information System (NASIS) was initiated school year 2008-2009. There are sixty Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funded schools participating in the pilot phase, serving as a trial unit in testing. The problem areas identified during the pilot phase are being resolved and the plans to train the remaining BIE funded schools during school year 2009-2010 are being finalized. After training is completed, the use of the NASIS Special Education forms will be required for all BIE funded schools.

The NASIS Special Education forms include the Individualized Education Program (IEP) which is set up as a data base with several editors. The data base is advantageous to both the schools and the Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA).

Primarily, the data base will allow the DPA to collect data for specific reports sent to the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs. The data bases housed in NASIS are interactive and adding the IEP editors enhances the NASIS as a data collection tool. Another major responsibility of DPA is to monitor school special education programs and the IEP data base will allow for a more efficient method resulting in schools receiving timely technical assistance necessary to improve positive outcomes for students with disabilities. DPA can be more precise and effective in assisting schools, providing training and professional development, and ensuring all students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Schools collect and use data; however, the data gleaned from the IEP enhances and will be readily available so that schools will be able to make program improvements based on valid information. Additionally, the IDEA is reauthorized every five years resulting in changes to the IEP and other special education forms. The cost to align the IEP and other forms with the amendment will be at no cost to the schools.

Your cooperation and efforts to ensure positive outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities is recognized and appreciated. If you have questions, contact Gloria J. Yepa, Supervisory Education Specialist, at gyepa@bia.edu or call (505) 563-5264.

Cc: Acting Director
Assistant Deputy Director
Associate Deputy Director – East
Associate Deputy Director – Navajo