

Every Student Succeeds Act Primer:

Bureau of Indian Education



Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is authorized to exercise greater autonomy over their schools.

Increased Flexibility

The ESSA authorizes the Secretary of Interior to determine the standards, assessments, and accountability systems for BIE funded schools. In developing these systems, the Secretary of Interior must take into account the unique circumstances and needs of students attending the schools.

Process: BIE must enter into a negotiated rule-making process in order to implement any changes to its current accountability system.

Waivers for Requirements

If the tribe or school board, operating BIE funded school, determines that requirements established under Title 1,

Part A are inappropriate for students attending those schools, they may waive part or all of the requirements.

Process: In order for the requirement(s) to be waived, the tribe or school board must submit to the Secretary of Interior a proposal for alternative standards, assessments, and/or accountability system that takes into account the unique circumstances and needs of students attending those schools.

Eligibility for Discretionary Funding

Under the ESSA, BIE is now eligible for discretionary funding previously only eligible to states. Programs now open for BIE schools include the following:

- Assistance for Arts Education
- Full-Service Community Schools
- Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk

For additional fact sheets about ESSA and Native communities, visit <http://niea.org/>.

The **National Indian Education Association (NIEA)** advances comprehensive educational opportunities for all Native students. Serving as the critical link between Native communities and the diverse array of institutions that serve our students, NIEA holds all accountable for improving achievement. Through advocacy, capacity-building, and education, NIEA supports Native students and their communities to succeed. **NIEA.org**

