



Facts on the BIE Reform

COST OF BIE'S REORGANIZATION

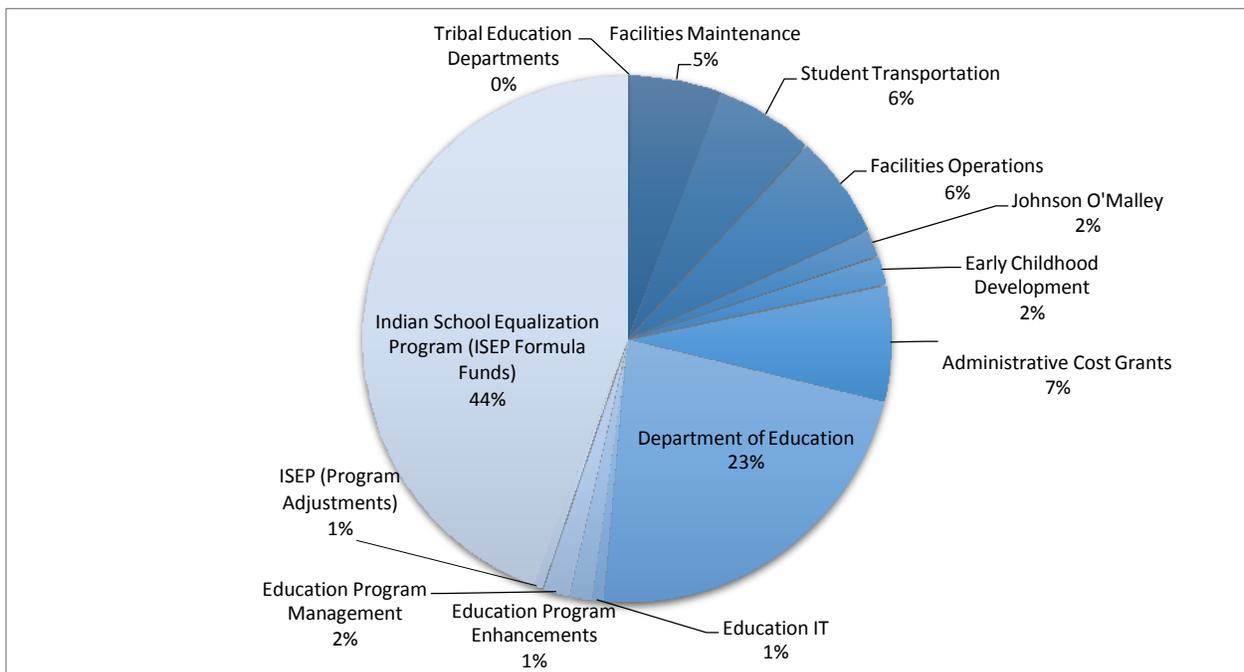
BACKGROUND

In 2013, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan convened an American Indian Education Study Group to diagnose the systemic challenges facing the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and to propose a comprehensive plan for reform to ensure all students attending BIE-funded schools receive a world-class education. After conducting listening sessions and tribal consultations, a framework for transforming the BIE into an “innovative organization that serves as a capacity-builder and service-provider to tribal nations with BIE-funded schools” has been provided by the agency.

THE COST OF BIE'S REORGANIZATION

When designing the proposal, the BIE ensured that the reorganization would have no impact on core school budgets primarily funded by Department of the Interior (DOI) Indian School Equalization Programs (ISEP) and Department of Education (ED) programs. Rather, the reorganization would be paid for using existing funding currently used for administrative purposes and school support.

Chart 1 shows the funding BIE receives for its programs and services, as well as funding needed to cover administrative costs for staffing and overhead (Education Program Management, 2%). The BIE is proposing that the funding needing for the reorganization will come from a portion of the Education Program Enhancement funds, Education IT, and ED Administrative Costs.



EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT FUNDS

The Education Program Management Funds are used by the BIE to cover salaries, travel, and administrative overhead for expenses related to running its school systems. The BIE has used these funds to determine the number of staffing identified under the BIE's reorganization. In FY 2015, the enacted funding was \$14,186 million supporting 90 current FTE and other administrative requirements. Under the reorganization, funding from other administrative costs will shift to support a total of 105 FTE. This change in staffing largely reflects planned recruitment to fill current vacancies.

The Education IT funds also provide funding to cover staff to work on the Native American Student Information System (NASIS). Currently, there are 5 FTE to provide services to these programs. The BIE proposes to move away from a reliance on contractors for essential parts of this function and shift funding from contracted services to support 3 additional FTE.

EDUCATION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS FUNDS

The Education Program Enhancement Funds allow the BIE to target schools struggling to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). These funds are particularly vital for schools in restructuring status, due to repeated failure to make AYP, as they provide assistance focused to address these schools' unique needs and specific gaps. There are currently 23 FTE providing this direct assistance in the field through the Enhancements program. The BIE proposes to reallocate funds within the Enhancements program currently supporting contracted assistance to support 20 additional federal positions to provide assistance as staff in the Education Resource Centers (ERCs – see NIEA's Fact Sheet on ERCs for additional information). The increase reflects a change in the delivery of school improvement services. In FY 2015, the enacted funding for the total Enhancements program was \$12,119 million. These specialists will provide technical expertise to a suite of schools.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDS

The Department of Education provides 23% of funding to BIE schools through a variety of programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). A portion of these funds currently support staffing to support the compliance and monitoring of these programs. At this time, no changes to staffing levels are proposed. The reorganization will relocate 24 positions from the Albuquerque Regional Office to the field ERCs to provide direct assistance to the schools. The remaining 15 positions will be duty stationed in Washington, DC to better support inter-agency coordination.

To learn more about the Bureau of Indian Education's funding, visit the Department of Interior's Budget Justifications for FY 2015 Indian Affairs at:

https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/budget/appropriations/2015/upload/FY2015_IA_Greenbook.pdf

NIEA is providing this series of Fact Sheets on the BIE reform to help inform and educate our members. For additional information or questions, please contact Dimple Patel, National Indian Education Association Federal Policy Associate, at dpatel@niea.org.