



Pueblo of Isleta

Isleta Elementary School



Bureau of Indian Education
Isleta Elementary School
Conversion to a P.L. 100-297
Tribally Controlled Grant School

Update as of February 11, 2015

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ISLETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSITION TIMELINE TO DATE

April 10, 2014: Tribal Council Resolution No. 2014-020, authorized the beginning stage of the conversion process.

Phase I – June through November 2014

- **August 1, 2014:** Draft of Initial Application completed and delivered to the Tribal Council and the Isleta Elementary School Transfer Team (IESTT)
- **August 29, 2014:** Submitted Initial Application (request to transfer) to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). The BIE has 90 days to officially accept the transfer application.



ISLETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSITION TIMELINE TO DATE

Phase I, Continued

- **October 9, 2014:** The Initial Application was amended to include ownership of Food Services, Transportation and Facilities.
- **October 14, 2014:** Meeting with IES Faculty, Staff and School Board to share updates on initial application.
- **November 24, 2014:** Parent/Community Meeting on the IES Conversion.

The Director of the BIE approved POI's application to convert to a Tribally Control Grant School.

Phase I Completed



ISLETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSITION TIMELINE TO DATE

Phase II – June through December 2014

- Assist and coordinate Transition Team in compiling and writing “substantive documentation” explaining the Pueblo of Isleta’s capacity to manage and operate a Tribally Controlled Grant School.
- **December 19, 2014:** Submitted final portion of application to BIE (due at the BIE February 28, 2015).

Phase II Completed.



ISLETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSITION TIMELINE TO DATE

Phase III – January through June 2015

IES Transition Team (IESTT) has been meeting every week since the start of the new year (2015).

- **January 20, 2015:** HR has advertised the Educational Program Administrator, Principal and Governing Board positions.
- Tribal Council appointed Councilman Ulysses Abeita as Education Liaison.
- **January 20, 2015:** Current/existing IES School Board met with the IESTT.
- **January 22, 2015:** Update article submitted to the POI Newsletter February edition.



ISLETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSITION TIMELINE TO DATE

Phase III Continued

- **January 28, 2015:** The BIE met with the Transition Team & POI Governor.
- **February 12, 2015:** Charles Roessel, BIE Director will meet with the Southern Pueblos Council at the Isleta Resort & Casino.
- **February 26, 2015:** BIE (New Mexico South) will meet with IES Transition Team and POI Leadership (Governor's Office).
- **March-June 2015:** The IES Transition Team will continue to assist in the conversion/transition of the Isleta Elementary School.



ISLETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONVERSION TO A TRIBALLY CONTROLLED GRANT SCHOOL (P.L. 100-297)

1. What is a Tribally Controlled Grant School?

Public Law 100-297 under Part B of Title V, Indian Education, allows Federally Recognized Tribes to operate and manage their own schools.

The Department of Interior and the BIE have recognized that, “... Indian education is most successful when tribes manage their schools.”
Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, Order No. 3344, June 12, 2014.

2. What does “Grant School” mean?

This means that the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will continue to honor Trust Responsibilities to Indian Tribes and provide funding to Tribally Controlled Grant Schools.



3. Why is the Pueblo of Isleta (POI) wanting to assume control of the BIE School?

It is one of the goals of the Tribal Council's Strategic Plan to, "Assume control of Education, including the Isleta Elementary School (IES)." The Tribal Council and the Governor's Office feels that the POI has the capacity to more efficiently manage and operate the IES. A local Governing Board will be utilized to manage all school operations.

There are three basic reasons that prompted this decision:

- Declining enrollment of our children at the Isleta Elementary School (including students who were transferred out to another school)
- Unstable leadership (i.e., high turnover of the IES Principal)
- High salary schedule that the BIE uses creates inequity obtaining educators whose first priority is "teaching our children"



4. What is the expected date of conversion from BIE to POI? When will the transfer happen?

At this time the POI is still awaiting approval of the transfer from the BIE. When approved, the transfer **will be effective on July 1, 2015**—in alignment for School Year 2015- 2016.

5. Will this conversion affect my child's education?

By assuming control of the operations of the IES, the POI's intent is to provide an enhanced curriculum, and to review and expand academic programs with the goal to be as competitive as any Public or BIE School in New Mexico.

An additional component of the Initial Application is began to weave our traditional culture and language into the academic programs. In addition, the POI will be able to significantly improve IES technology so our students will be afforded the same education as anywhere in the US.



6. Will the school continue to be funded by the BIE?

Yes, the school will continue to be funded by the BIE. In addition, the IES will be eligible to apply for grants such as the from Department of Education or the State.

7. What happens to the existing IES staff and teachers once the POI assumes IES operations?

The POI recognizes the expertise of the IES teachers and staff. However, all former BIE staff and teachers will need to apply with the POI if they wish to continue working at the school. All required job positions at the school will be posted and managed by the POI Human Resources Department.





Questions?

Comments?