



VISION:

“That the fire and light of Shea-Whiph-Tuy will continue to shine, providing light and warmth to our future generations, ensuring our quality of life and prosperity, securing our existence and sovereignty, and protecting our traditional and cultural values.”

Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Council

Q & A: Isleta Elementary School Conversion to a Tribally Controlled Grant School (P.L. 100-297)

1. What is a Tribally Controlled Grant School?

A Tribally Controlled Grant School is a school that has been converted from a Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school to 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 Control Grant Schools.

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

The POI Tribal Council and Administration have been discussing in detail the concept of a “Tribally Controlled Grant School.” It was therefore one of the Goals of the Tribal Council’s Strategic Plan to, “Assume control of Education, including the Isleta Elementary School (IES).

The POI has the capacity to appropriately manage the IES and to operate a school with a local Governing Board assuming the responsibility to managing all school operations. This would include Financial and Academic planning, etc.

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

The POI is awaiting approval from the BIE. The POI’s transfer application, the timeline for the POI to assume control of the operations of the IES is 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 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 for other Department of Education Grants, or State Grants that the IES was previously unable to apply for. As the name implies, "Trially Controlled Grant School," simply means a Tribe is in control of the school and the BIE will continue to fund the school.

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 by the POI Human Resources Department.