



**DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION  
THE NAVAJO NATION**

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Russell Begaye  
President

Jonathan Nez  
Vice President

July 16, 2015

TO: School Officials and School Board Members of BIE funded schools on Navajo

**RE: Accountability Workbook and Use of the Common Core State Standards and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment**

The Navajo Nation submitted an Alternative Accountability Workbook to the U.S. Departments of Education and Interior in 2009, and requested flexibility regarding specific requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. We did not receive a response for the past several years and more recently, we had meetings with both federal agencies in Washington, D.C. to expedite the review process. This effort will utilize a rigorous and comprehensive Navajo Nation developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close the achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. One primary goal of the waiver request is to unify three different state accountability systems and assessments into one uniform and rigorous set of standards and common assessments for all BIE funded schools. Schools will no longer use the state standards and assessment.

The flexibility waiver request is also based on the use of the Common Core State Standards and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. We anticipate the Navajo Nation's flexibility waiver request will likely be approved by the Secretaries of Education and Interior by September 2015. Both federal agencies are strongly recommending that we start all BIE funded schools on this new plan at the same time starting in school year 2015-2016.

Therefore, please be aware the Alternative Accountability Workbook is scheduled to be implemented this coming school year. We are requesting your school's cooperation to implement the Common Core State Standards and use of the PARCC assessment for the coming school year and subsequent school years. More information will be forthcoming in the near future. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the Office of Diné School Improvement (ODSI) at (928) 871-7452. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tommy Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

CC: Timothy Benally, Assistant Superintendent/Department of Diné Education  
Dr. Calvin White, Program Manager/Office of Diné School Improvement  
Dr. Ancita Benally, Program Manager/ Office of Standards, Curriculum, & Assessment Development  
Dr. Pauline M. Begay, President/Navajo Nation Board of Education  
Emily Arviso, Acting Associate Deputy Director/Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)  
Dr. Charles M. Roessel, Director/ Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)  
Angela Barney Nez, Executive Director, DBOSBA

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