



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Education
1849 C Street NW, MIB-3610
Washington, DC 20240

October 23, 2025

Standing Rock Community School

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Re: Standing Rock Community School Student Safety Review

Standing Rock Community School
9189 HIGHWAY 24
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Dear Superintendent Mr. Talley,

I am writing on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) regarding a deeply troubling incident that was recently reported at Standing Rock Community School (School). According to information received, a serious allegation involving sexual assault and student bullying occurred on campus after regular school hours. It has also been alleged that two school employees were aware of ongoing bullying involving the student in question and failed to take appropriate action to intervene before the alleged incident occurred.

While we recognize that the investigation into this matter is ongoing, the nature of the allegations involving both student misconduct and potential staff negligence — raises significant concerns about the overall safety environment at the school. As the federal agency responsible for the administration and oversight of funding issued pursuant to the Tribally Controlled Schools (TCS) Grant Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. § 2501 *et seq.*), BIE has a duty to ensure that all students at Standing Rock Community School are learning in a safe and secure environment. 25 U.S.C. § 2507(a)(12); 25 U.S.C. § 5330.

In light of these allegations, we are initiating a comprehensive review of the School's safety-related policies and procedures. *See* 2 C.F.R. § 200.329(f) (authorizing federal agencies to conduct in-person or virtual visits as warranted). This review is necessary to assess whether appropriate safeguards are in place and are effectively enforced to prevent bullying, hazing, abuse, and other threats to student safety. For purposes of conducting this review, we respectfully request that your office transmit the following documents to BIE no later than October 31, 2025:

Incident Report

1. Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Policy
2. SCAN History for the past four years
3. Bullying Policy
4. Hazing Policy
5. Facilities Policy (covering security measures, defined roles and responsibilities, access controls, acceptable use, facility scheduling, student supervision, and related protocols)
6. Record of Staff Training (related to student safety, bullying prevention, and mandatory reporting requirements)
7. Current Student Handbook
8. Staff Handbook
9. Athletic Handbook
10. Discipline Policy (if not already included in the student and staff handbooks)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request or the upcoming review, please contact Dr. Cherie Poitra at [REDACTED]. We are committed to working collaboratively with your team to ensure that the School is a safe and supportive environment for all students.

We appreciate your cooperation and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cherie Poitra

Associate Deputy Director, Tribally Controlled Schools

Bureau of Indian Education

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