

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD  
BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES  
“EXAMINING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION’S SCHOOL REOPENING  
GUIDANCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”**

**September 10, 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement on behalf of the Department of the Interior (Department) regarding the Bureau of Indian Education’s (BIE) reopening guidance for the 2020-2021 school year. The BIE’s *Return to Learn!* plan provides BIE leaders and school personnel with guidance on reopening criteria that follows current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, provides flexibility for local conditions, and makes recommendations on distance learning platforms. The *Return to Learn!* plan, as well as other reopening guidance and resources, can be found on the BIE website at [bie.edu](http://bie.edu) and on the reopening webpage at <https://returntolearn.bie.edu/>.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide this statement.