

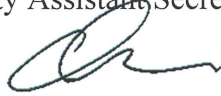


OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEP 04 2015

Memorandum

To: Kristen J. Sarri
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

From: Charles Haman 
Central Region Manager for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Subject: Verification Review – Recommendations for the Report, “Evaluation of Controls to Prevent Violence at Bureau of Indian Education Operated Education Facilities” (NM-EV-BIE-0001-2008)
Report No. 2015-CR-059

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed a verification review of the four recommendations presented in the subject report. Our objective was to determine whether the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) implemented the recommendations as reported to the Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management and Budget. PFM reported to OIG that it has closed the recommendations. We do not concur that all recommendations have been resolved and implemented.

Background

Our report, “Evaluation of Controls to Prevent Violence at Bureau of Indian Education Operated Education Facilities,” dated August 1, 2008, made three recommendations designed to improve safety measures in place at BIE-funded schools.

In an October 1, 2008 memorandum, we referred the recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget to track their implementation. A written response to the report, due September 1, 2008, was not received. Therefore, the recommendations were considered unresolved.

Scope and Methodology

The scope of this review was limited to determining whether BIE implemented the recommendations we reported. To accomplish our objective, we reviewed the supporting documentation that BIE officials provided to us and to PFM. We did not perform internal control testing, site visits, or conduct fieldwork to determine whether the underlying deficiencies that were initially identified have been corrected. As a result, this review was not conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, or Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Results of Review

We found that BIE implemented and resolved two of the three recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Indian Affairs should immediately prepare and implement a plan of action to evaluate the safety and security of each education facility and correct identified weaknesses. Corrective actions should ensure: unauthorized individuals cannot gain access to the campus through unlocked or unmonitored doors; all facilities have operable, and regularly tested central alarm and intercom systems; and trained first responders are available to respond to emergencies.

Action Taken: In May 2012, BIE completed a review of every BIE-operated school as part of the Safe School Audit in order to evaluate the safety and security of each education facility. BIE provided the Safe School Audit Reports for the Red Rock Day School. In addition, we requested and received the Safe School Audit Reports for Paschal Sherman Indian School, Pierre Indian Learning Center, Moencopi Day School, and Ojo Encino Day School.

We determined that BIE created a safety policy and evaluated the safety and security of each education facility against the safety policy. BIE, however, did not provide evidence that it corrected identified weaknesses highlighted in the Safe School Audits. Therefore, we consider this recommendation unresolved.

Recommendation 2: Indian Affairs should prepare and implement a plan of action to evaluate the emergency preparedness plans at each education facility and correct identified weaknesses. Each facility should have a current emergency preparedness plan in place.

Action Taken: On April 18, 2011, BIE issued a national policy memorandum addressing Emergency Management Programs in Schools. The policy requires all BIE-operated school to have a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and an Emergency Management Plan. In addition, the policy requires evacuations and lockdown drills once a semester. On May 17, 2012, this national policy memorandum became a permanent policy procedure for BIE staff within the Indian Affairs Manual (Part 30, Chapter 12).

Recommendation 3: Prepare and implement a plan of action to evaluate the preparedness of each education facility and correct identified weaknesses to include: all facilities can be safely locked down or evacuated in the event of an emergency; staff and students are trained on emergency procedures; and emergency plans are routinely tested.

Action Taken: BIE provided evidence showing updated annual training for Emergency Preparedness Plans and additional Emergency Plan Development tools. In addition, BIE provided the attendance sheets for the fiscal year 2011 Emergency Preparedness Plans training.

Conclusion

Based on our review of the evidence provided, we consider recommendations 2 and 3 resolved and implemented. We consider recommendation 1 unresolved. We informed BIE officials of the results of this review on July 15, 2015.

cc: Olivia Ferriter, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
Douglas A. Glenn, Director, Office of Financial Management
Allen Lawrence, Division Chief, Internal Control and Audit Follow-up, Office of
Financial Management
Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Michael Oliva, Audit Liaison Officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Alexandra Lampros, Audit Liaison Officer, Office of Financial Management