



**United States Department of Interior**  
**Bureau of Indian Education/Pine Ridge School**  
**Great Plains Region**  
**PO Box 1202**  
**Pine Ridge, SD 57770**



January 28, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we continue to navigate the challenges to our community posed by COVID-19, the health and safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) tasks the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) with administering a series of assessments each year to track our students' progress. These assessment cannot be administered remotely. Accordingly, I am writing to provide information on Pine Ridge School's plans for administering this year's assessments.

The assessment windows for this year are as follows:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>BIE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS [For grades 3-8 and 11]</b>	<b>BIE Science [For grades 5,8, 11]</b>	<b>BIE Alternate (ELA, Math, and Science) For Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities [For grades 3-8 and 11 for Alternate ELA and Math; For grades 5, 8, 11 for Alternate Science]</b>	<b>BIE English Language Proficiency for English Learners [For grades K-12]</b>
<b>Test Window</b>	March 22 – June 11, 2021	March 29 – May 7, 2021	March 15 – April 30, 2021	January 25 – March 12, 2021

While our goal remains to measure the achievement of all of our students, you, as a parent or guardian can make the ultimate decision on whether you feel it is safe for your child to come to school to take the tests. **It is your decision whether to send your child to school for testing.** No negative consequences will be imposed on you or your child if you decide to not participate in the assessments.

For those students who do test, our protocols for conducting the assessments will look different this year. Here are some steps we have taken to keep students and staff safe during the tests:

- We added additional health safety procedures during the test including: The use of PPE (masks, gloves, and desk shields) by students and staff, social distancing and cleaning and disinfecting of testing areas.

We will be contacting you shortly with instruction for how you may indicate whether your child will participate in the assessment and with specific information on when your child may report to school for testing

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or assessments generally, please contact Pine Ridge School at 605-867-5191 for the High School or 605-867-5193 for the Elementary. Meanwhile, we will continue to monitor for any changes in guidance from the U.S. Department of Education that may affect our assessment administration plans.



Michael Carlow, Principal  
Pine Ridge School