



# Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

## LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION

100 Veterans Memorial Dr. BOX 509

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October 28, 2015

TO: Ms. Wendy Greyeyes  
Bureau of Indian Education  
Office of the BIE Director  
1849 C Street NW.  
MS-4657-MIB  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Federal Register / Vol. 80, No. 169/ Tuesday, September 1, 2015/ Notices  
Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Renewal of Agency Information Collection for the Bureau of Indian Education Tribal Education  
Department Grant Program; Request for Comments

Below are the four (4) questions and the responses from the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Education Department

- (a) The necessity of this information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

**SWO Responses:** In order for tribes to effectively respond to this question these are the concerns that we have:

- What is the purpose of the information gathering?
- Will it be shared?
- If it is shared, is the Tribe consulted prior to the sharing of the information?
- Are the requests for information timely and does the tribe have adequate time to respond.

- (b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (hours and cost) of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

**SWO Responses:**

- The burden is considered high in regard to time and money spent.
- Is there a development and implementation system in place?
- What are the methods and assumptions that are expected to be used? Where are the policies that are guiding the methodology and assumptions?



(c) Ways we could enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

**SWO Responses:**

- Have quality, quantifiable data with consistent measurable goals and/or objectives.
- Provide fillable forms with direct, consistent questions.
- Have Quarterly reporting guidelines and directives, upfront, which are summarized and generated for an Annual report.
- Branches of BIE ask for the same information repeatedly. A system of shared data within the BIE is needed.

(d) Ways we could minimize the burden of the collection of the information on the respondents, such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**SWO Responses:**

- Have fillable forms
- Do not ask for any after the fact requests for information
- Have a tracking and monitoring system in place with guidelines and/or policies and procedures with a timeline
- Have an online system
- Have quarterly reporting only
- Provide webinar, Skype, etc. meetings instead of travel time for meetings.

If there are any further questions please feel free to contact us. 605-698-8298 or 605-698-8412.

Respectfully submitted,



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**CC: Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
Tribal Executives**

