



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

Pine Ridge Education Resource Center – Flandreau Indian School

1132 N. Crescent Street

Flandreau, SD 57028

August 3, 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

It is our hope that you and your family are staying physically, mentally, and spiritually well during the ever-changing pandemic that is continuing this summer. There is growing uncertainty and concern with rises in COVID-19 positive cases concentrated in many parts of the country. The most recent delta variant continues to profoundly affect how the Bureau of Indian Education schools throughout the country plan to deliver academic instruction and residential services to students for SY 21-22. With the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases due to this highly contagious delta variant, it is imperative that BIE schools make the determination that our schools can open in a manner that ensures our students are safe and secure in their health and wellness.

The current state of the pandemic has led us to make the difficult decision to delay the start of in-person instruction which also impacts students returning to our residential programs. This decision was based on numerous factors in addition to rising COVID-19 delta variant cases. Much thought and consideration was given to local health conditions monitored and provided by tribal, county and state health departments, current infection rates and projections, vaccination rates, and the arrival of students from various parts of the country into a central location. It is felt that this is a proactive measure to limit the potential campus community spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and welfare of our students and staff.

We will keep you updated when the determination is made for students to return to campus. We will update our school website at www.flandreauindianeducation.com with the most current information available from the BIE and Flandreau Indian School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Everall Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "F" at the end.

Everall Fox
Chief School Administrator