

Summary: Allegations of Conflicts of Interest at Bureau of Indian Education School

Report Date: April 22, 2021

Report Number: 19-0397

The OIG investigated allegations that a Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) superintendent and one of the superintendent's coworkers influenced the award of a subcontract on a BIE contract to a business owned by a family member of the superintendent. We also investigated allegations that the superintendent instructed other BIE employees to perform work for the family member's business while on duty.

We found no evidence the superintendent directly influenced the award of the contract because we found no evidence that the prime contractor had substantive contact with the superintendent before selecting subcontractors. We did find, however, that the superintendent's coworker included the family member's company on a list of recommended subcontractors sent to the prime contractor, which violated standing guidance. This failure may have contributed to an appearance of improper influence.

We confirmed that BIE employees assisted subcontractors with tasks at the project site but did not find evidence that, in allowing this, the superintendent's position was misused to benefit the family member's business.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the BIE Director.

