

BIA plans transfer of 9 more schools

Associated Press

Juneau — The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs will transfer nine more schools to the state at the end of the current school year, shrinking to 10 the number of day schools still under its control in Alaska, a spokesman said Thursday.

Four schools in the Nome

area have been singled out for the shift on a tentative basis — Diomedes, Elim, Savoona and Shaktoolik. The others are Cruikshank, Grayling, Shageluk, Tetlin and Venetie.

Glen Robertson, a BIA public affairs officer, said the agency once operated 137 day schools and three boarding schools across Alaska.

Congress decided "in its 1984 supplemental appropriation legislation" that the BIA should spend no more money for education than what is required to operate 10 Alaska day schools by June 30, 1984, Robertson said.

The bill also specifies that the agency not spend any money to run day schools in the

state beyond June 30, 1985, he said.

"By cutting off the money, Congress has said it's wasteful to operate two separate systems of education," Robertson said.

"Gradually, as the state has become capable of taking them over and running them, they've been transferred."

Also affected by the trans-

fers will be 31 education-related jobs at the BIA's Nome and Fairbanks agency offices and at the Anchorage Work Center.

Those 31 educators are expected to be reassigned, offered other positions or released, officials said.

The BIA will continue operating 10 schools in the Bethel area, officials said.