

Boarding Home Program of State, BIA Getting Record Applications

The State-BIA Boarding School Sub-committee is receiving a record number of applications this spring to the 1970 Boarding Home Program.

Regional Schools Director James M. Harper stated at the present rate that applications are coming in, it appears that next year's enrollment will exceed 1,000 students.

Rural Alaskan students participating in the program will be located in 24 communities throughout the state.

Approximately 250 students will board in Anchorage, 200 in Fairbanks, 100 in Kodiak, 60 each in Bethel and Dillingham, 35 in Palmer, 20 in Kenai, and lesser numbers in the remaining boarding communities.

The Boarding Home Program originated in 1966 to serve the overflow of students who could not get into boarding schools in Alaska. Under the program, students live in private homes and attend the local high school in the community where they are boarding.

Although the program did not intend to reach such numbers, the 1966 enrollment of 110 students has nearly doubled annually. This year, 670 rural Alaskans attended high school through the Boarding Home Program.

The program has been well received by participating communities, students, natural and boarding parents, and school administrators.

The second factor accounting for its expansion is the gradually decreasing spaces available to Alaskan students in Bureau of Indian Affairs' high schools, particularly those outside of the state.

For example, only 35 new Alaskan students will be accepted at Chemawa next year and on-

ly 107 at Mt. Edgecumbe.

Although the State is developing boarding high school facilities throughout rural Alaska, the Boarding Home Program will continue to expand so that all rural students desiring to continue their high school education will have the opportunity to do so.