

## ENCLOSURE C

### SPECIAL CONDITIONS

#### 1. Basis for Requiring Special Conditions

The requirements that States ensure that children with disabilities participate in State and district-wide assessment systems; develop and administer alternate assessments, if necessary; and report publicly on the participation and performance of children with disabilities in State and district-wide assessments are crucial to ensuring that children with disabilities are provided access to high-quality instruction in the general curriculum, and that States and districts are held accountable for the progress of these children. 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(16)-(17); 34 CFR §§300.137-300.139. The requirements regarding performance goals and indicators and the participation of children with disabilities in, and reporting on participation and performance of children with disabilities in regular assessments have been in effect since July 1, 1998; the requirements regarding reporting on alternate assessments have been in effect since July 1, 2000. According to the information reported to the Department in the Biennial Performance Report for the 2000-2001 school year, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) was not reporting publicly and to the Secretary on the participation and performance of children with disabilities *in grades 10 and 11* in alternate assessments, as required by Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Therefore, the Department determined that CNMI had not complied with all the terms and conditions of the Federal Fiscal Year 2001 awards under Part B of IDEA, and, under the authority of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations, 34 CFR §80.12, the Department imposed Special Conditions on CNMI's Federal Fiscal Year 2002 awards under Part B. Those Special Conditions required that CNMI demonstrate, by May 30, 2003, that it was reporting publicly and to the Secretary on the participation and performance of children with disabilities *in grades 10 and 11* in alternate assessments, as required at 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(17) and 34 CFR §300.139(a). CNMI did not meet that timeline and has not yet met the requirements of 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(17) and 34 CFR §300.139(a). (CNMI has informed the Department that it will provide documentation by September 30, 2003 that it has reported publicly on the participation and performance of children with disabilities *in grades 10 and 11* in alternate assessments.) Therefore, the Department is imposing Special Conditions on CNMI's Federal Fiscal Year 2003 awards under Part B.

#### 2. Nature of the Special Conditions

By October 20, 2003, CNMI must demonstrate that it is reporting publicly and to the Secretary on the participation and performance of children with disabilities *in grades 10 and 11* in alternate assessments, as required at 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(17) and 34 CFR §300.139(a). CNMI must submit information on reporting publicly on the participation and performance of children with disabilities *in grades 10 and 11* in alternate assessments, and this information is to be submitted on the Biennial Performance Report format provided by OSEP. (This format is available at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/monitor/index.html>.)

In the event that, notwithstanding CNMI's assurance, CNMI does not meet that timeline, CNMI must:

- a. Submit to OSEP by November 1, 2003, a written plan detailing the steps and timelines for reporting publicly and to the Secretary on the participation and performance of children with disabilities *in grades 10 and 11* in alternate assessments by May 30, 2004. The plan must ensure that students with disabilities, including students who take the alternate assessments, are assessed in the same grades as nondisabled students and that their participation in such assessments and the results of their assessments are reported in the same frequency and detail as nondisabled students.
- b. Submit progress reports on January 5, 2004, March 29, 2004, and the final submission due on May 31, 2004. The final submission that includes information on reporting publicly on the participation and performance of children with disabilities in alternate assessments is to be submitted on the Biennial Performance Report format provided by OSEP. (This format is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/monitor/index.html>.)

**3. Evidence Necessary for Conditions To Be Removed**

The Department will remove the special conditions if, at any time prior to the expiration of the grant year, CNMI provides documentation, satisfactory to the Department, that it has fully met the requirements to report publicly on the participation and performance of children with disabilities in alternate assessments. This information is to be submitted on the Biennial Performance Report format provided by OSEP. (This format is available at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/monitor/index.html>.)

**4. Method of Requesting Reconsideration**

CNMI can write to Assistant Secretary Robert H. Pasternack if it wishes the Department to reconsider any aspect of these Special Conditions. Any request of this sort should describe in detail the changes to the Special Conditions sought by the State and the reasons for those requested changes.

**5. Submission of Reports**

All reports that are required to be submitted by CNMI to the Department under the Special Conditions should be submitted to:

Lucille Sleger  
Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education  
330 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-2640