



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

JUL - 1 2011

Honorable Rita Sablan
Commissioner of Education
CNMI Public School System
P.O. Box 501370 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Commissioner Sablan:

We have approved the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI's) application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 funds under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part B). Our approval is based on review of the application submitted by the CNMI Public School System (PSS) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 5, 2011 and amended on May 13, 2011, including assurances provided in Section II and incorporated by reference to this letter as noted in Enclosure A.

CNMI's FFY 2011 IDEA Part B grant is also subject to Special Conditions identified in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) June 7, 2011 letter to CNMI, which is Enclosure C to this grant letter and which is expressly incorporated into the terms of CNMI's FFY 2011 IDEA Part B grant. By accepting the enclosed grant award, CNMI expressly agrees to comply with the terms identified in Enclosure C, which imposes Special Conditions to ensure continued fiscal accountability of Department grant funds awarded to CNMI, including the IDEA Part B FFY 2011 grant funds.

Please note that as part of your application for FFY 2011, CNMI has made an assurance, pursuant to 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect during the FFY 2011 grant period. Any changes made by CNMI, after OSEP approval, to information that is a part of CNMI's application, must meet the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §300.165.

Enclosed is CNMI's FFY 2011 grant award for funds currently available under the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 -- P.L. 112-10 for the IDEA Part B Section 611 (Grants to States) program. These funds are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2013 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

The amount shown in your award for the Section 611 program is only part of the total funds that will be awarded to you for FFY 2011. Of the \$11,482,200,578 appropriated for Section 611 in FFY 2011, \$2,889,817,578 is available for awards on July 1, 2011, and \$8,592,383,000 will be available for awards on October 1, 2011. Under the Section 611 formula, in a year in which the amount available for allocation to States decreases from the prior year, but is greater than the 1999 level, any amount available for allocation to States above the 1999 level is allocated based on the relative increases in funding that the States received between 1999 and the prior year.

Enclosure B provides a short description of how Section 611 funds were allocated and how those funds can be used. In addition, Table I in Enclosure B shows funding levels for distribution of Section 611 funds and the parameters for within-State allocations.

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

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The enclosed grant award of FFY 2011 funds is made with the continued understanding that this Office may, from time to time, require clarification of information within your application, if necessary. These inquiries may be necessary to allow us to appropriately carry out our administrative responsibilities related to IDEA Part B.

As a reminder, within 30 days of July 1, 2011, all prime recipients of IDEA (Part B or Part C) funds must report subaward information as required by the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), as amended in 2008. FFATA guidance is found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/rms-web-conferences.html>. Please contact your State's Recovery Act Facilitator if you have further questions.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality educational services to children with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Melody Musgrove, Ed.D.
Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

Enclosure A
Enclosure B
Enclosure C

cc: Director of Special Education