



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

July 1, 2014

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 or the CNMI) application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 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 April 30, 2014, including assurances provided in Section II and incorporated by reference to this letter as noted in Enclosure A.

The CNMI's FFY 2014 IDEA Part B grant is also subject to Special Conditions identified in the Department's June 19, 2014 letter to the CNMI, which is Enclosure C to this grant letter and which is expressly incorporated into the terms of the CNMI's FFY 2014 IDEA Part B grant. By accepting the enclosed grant award, the 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 the CNMI, including the IDEA Part B FFY 2014 grant funds awarded by the Department to the CNMI PSS.

Please note that as part of your application for FFY 2014, the 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 2014 grant period. Any changes made by the CNMI, after OSEP approval, to information that is a part of the CNMI's application, must meet the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §300.165.

Enclosed is the CNMI's FFY 2014 grant award for funds currently available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 -- P.L. 113-76 for the IDEA Part B Section 611 (Grants to States) program. These funds are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2014, through September 30, 2016, 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 2014. Of the \$11,472,848,000 appropriated for Section 611 in FFY 2014, \$2,189,465,000 is available for awards on July 1, 2014, and \$9,283,383,000 will be available for awards on October 1, 2014. Under the Section 611 formula, in a year in which the

amount available for allocations to States increases from the prior year, subject to certain maximum and minimum funding requirements, State allocations are based on the amount that each State received from FFY 1999 funds, the general population in the age range for which each State ensures a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities, and the number of children living in poverty in the age range for which each State ensures FAPE to all children with disabilities.<sup>1</sup>

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.

The enclosed grant award of FFY 2014 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.

In Section V of its IDEA Part B application, pursuant to the authority in IDEA section 618(a)(3), the CNMI was required to submit data on the total amount of the CNMI's financial support made available for special education and related services for children with disabilities in State fiscal year (SFY) 2012 and SFY 2013. If OSEP receives information through audits, fiscal monitoring or other means that raises questions about the data the CNMI has provided in Section V, OSEP will follow-up with the CNMI.

As a reminder, all prime recipients of IDEA (Part B or Part C) funds, must report subaward information as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), as amended in 2008. First-tier subaward information must be reported by the end of the following month from when the award was made or obligated. FFATA guidance is found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/rms-web-conferences.html>. Please contact your Fiscal Accountability Facilitator if you have further questions.

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<sup>1</sup> The amount that a State's allocation may increase from one year to the next is capped at the amount the State received in the prior year multiplied by the sum of 1.5 percent and the percentage increase in the total amount appropriated for Part B of IDEA from the prior year. Additionally, the maximum amount that a State may receive in any fiscal year is calculated by multiplying the number of children with disabilities ages 3 through 21 served during the 2004-2005 academic year in that State by 40 percent of the annual per pupil expenditure (APPE), adjusted by the rate of annual change in the sum of 85 percent of the children aged 3 through 21 for whom that State ensures FAPE and 15 percent of the children living in poverty. Because there are multiple caps, in any year the "effective cap" on a State's allocation is the lowest cap for that State.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melody Musgrove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

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

Enclosures

- Enclosure A
- Enclosure B
- Enclosure C

cc: State Director of Special Education