

# Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Fiscal Monitoring Instrument

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Public School System (CNMI)

### Scope of Review:

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) monitored CNMI's procedures for ensuring compliance with the fiscal components of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other related Federal fiscal requirements. In performing this review, OSEP reviewed publicly available information, CNMI-submitted documentation, and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 and Office of Inspector General audits, and conducted both on-site and telephone interviews with CNMI staff.

Effective July 1, 2015, for IDEA Part B FFY 2015 grant awards, IDEA Part B funds are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, codified in 2 CFR Part 200 and commonly referred to as the Uniform Guidance. The Uniform Guidance provisions in 2 CFR Part 200 replace provisions previously found in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74 and 80 and prior OMB Circulars A-87 and A-133. Therefore, the "Finding" and "Citation" sections of the enclosure include citations to the provisions in EDGAR in 34 CFR Parts 74 and 80, prior OMB Circulars A-87 and A-133. However, because the "Further Action Required" section of the enclosure addresses corrective actions the CNMI must take after July 1, 2015, that section includes citations to the Uniform Guidance.

Please note the following abbreviations are used in the Fiscal Monitoring Instrument:

AMI – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 Monitoring Inventory

CrEAG – Critical Elements Analysis Guide

EDGAR – Education Department General Administrative Regulations

FFY – Federal Fiscal Year

FS – fiscal systems element of the CrEAG

GEPA – General Education Provisions Act

LEA – local educational agency

MFS – maintenance of financial support

SEA – State educational agency

**IDEA Part B  
Summary of Monitoring Criterion**

**Monitoring Area 1, IDEA Part B: Obligation/Liquidation**

<b>Criterion Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Noncompliance identified?</b>	<b>Applicable Requirements</b>
<b>Criterion 1.1</b>	The SEA has procedures to allocate the IDEA section 611 and section 619 subgrants to eligible LEAs based upon the correct formula.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §§300.200, 300.705(a)-(b), 300.815-300.816
<b>Criterion 1.2</b>	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs are provided 27 months to obligate funds.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §76.709(a)
<b>Criterion 1.3</b>	The SEA has procedures to obligate funds solely during the 27 month period of availability and liquidate funds not later than 90 days after the end of the funding period or an extension of that timeline authorized by the Department.	No	34 CFR §§76.703, 76.709, 80.23
<b>Criterion 1.4</b>	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs obligate funds solely during the 27 month period of availability and liquidate funds not later than 90 days after the end of the funding period or an extension of that timeline authorized by the Department.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §§76.709, 80.23
<b>Criterion 1.5</b>	The SEA has procedures to reallocate IDEA section 611 and section 619 subgrants, when appropriate, consistent with the regulations.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §§300.705(c), 300.817
<b>Criterion 1.6</b>	The SEA has procedures to draw down funds based on immediate needs; any interest accrued by the SEA or LEAs in excess of \$100 per year per account is returned to the Department.	No	34 CFR §80.21(c)&(i)

**Finding:** None

## Monitoring Area 2, IDEA Part B: Use of Funds

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 2.1	The SEA has procedures to ensure that funds are expended in accordance with the requirements of the IDEA Part B.	No	34 CFR §§300.162(a), 300.202(a)(1)
Criterion 2.2	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs use IDEA funds only to pay the excess costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities in accordance with IDEA.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §§300.16, 300.202(a)(2)
Criterion 2.3	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs spend the required amount on providing special education and related services to parentally-placed private school children with disabilities.	No	34 CFR §300.133
Criterion 2.4	The SEA has procedures to provide an approved restricted indirect cost rate (RICR) for its LEAs.	No	34 CFR §§76.560-76.569
Criterion 2.5	The SEA has procedures to provide IDEA funds to LEA charter schools in accordance with IDEA and EDGAR.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §§76.788-76.797, 300.209(c), 300.705(a)-(b), 300.815-300.816
Criterion 2.6	The SEA has procedures to ensure that each LEA provides funds to charter schools that are part of the LEA in the same manner it provides funds to its other schools.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §§76.799, 300.209(b)

**Finding:** None

## Monitoring Area 3, IDEA Part B: ARRA

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 3.1	The SEA ensures that infrastructure investments are properly certified and posted.	No	ARRA §1511
Criterion 3.2	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs comply with the “Buy American” requirements.	No	2 CFR §§176.60-176.170

<b>Criterion Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Noncompliance identified?</b>	<b>Applicable Requirement</b>
<b>Criterion 3.3</b>	The SEA has procedures to ensure that LEAs comply with the prevailing wage requirements.	No	2 CFR §§176.180, 176.190
<b>Criterion 3.4</b>	The SEA has procedures to ensure that it prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse.	No	Inspector General Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-504)

**Finding:** None

### **Monitoring Area 4, IDEA Part B: Level of Effort**

<b>Criterion Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Noncompliance identified?</b>	<b>Applicable Requirement</b>
<b>Criterion 4.1</b>	The State has procedures to calculate its financial support for special education and related services for children with disabilities in accordance with the IDEA.	No	34 CFR §300.163(a)
<b>Criterion 4.2</b>	The SEA has procedures to ensure that each LEA budgets, for the education of children with disabilities, at least the same amount as the LEA spent for that purpose in the most recent prior year for which information is available.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §300.203(b)
<b>Criterion 4.3</b>	The SEA has procedures to ensure that each LEA expends at least the same amount as it expended in the immediate prior year for the education of children with disabilities, unless the LEA has allowable exceptions or adjustments.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §§300.203(a), 300.204-300.205
<b>Criterion 4.4</b>	The SEA's procedures for reviewing LEA MOE consider each of the following ways to calculate MOE: total local funds; per capita local funds; total local and State funds; or per capita local and State funds. The SEA's procedures for reviewing LEA MOE find an LEA to have met MOE if the LEA met MOE based on one or more of those comparisons.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §300.203(b)

**Finding:** None

## Monitoring Area 5, IDEA Part B: Procurement, Property, and Record Retention

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 5.1	The SEA obtains approval from the Department prior to using its State-level IDEA funds for equipment, construction, or alteration of facilities.	No	34 CFR §300.718
Criterion 5.2	The SEA has procedures to ensure that an LEA obtains its approval prior to using IDEA funds for equipment, construction, or alteration of facilities.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §300.718
Criterion 5.3	The SEA has procedures to ensure that its procurement mechanisms, and those used by its LEAs, conform to applicable Federal law and State procurement rules.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §80.36
Criterion 5.4	The SEA has procedures to ensure that each LEA maintains a physical inventory of property acquired with IDEA funds and conducts inventories to reconcile with property records at least once every two years.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §80.32(d)(2)
Criterion 5.5	The SEA has procedures to ensure that it, and its LEAs, do not award or obligate funds to any party that has been debarred or suspended.	No	34 CFR §80.35
Criterion 5.6	The SEA has procedures to ensure it, and its LEAs, maintain financial and programmatic records for the period of time required by Federal law.	No	34 CFR §80.42

**Finding:** None

## Monitoring Area 6, IDEA Part B: Fiscal Monitoring

Criterion Number	Description	Noncompliance identified?	Applicable Requirement
Criterion 6.1	The SEA has a reasonably designed system to monitor subgrantees to ensure compliance with applicable Federal fiscal requirements.	Not Applicable	34 CFR §§80.26, 80.40, 300.149, 300.600

**Finding:** None