



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

JUN 27 2012

Honorable Rita Sablan
Commissioner of Education
CNMI Public School System
Post Office Box 501370 CK
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Commissioner Sablan:

Thank you for the timely submission of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2010 Annual Performance Report (APR) and revised State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Department has determined that, under IDEA section 616(d)(2)(A)(i), CNMI meets the requirements of Part B of IDEA. The Department's determination is based on the totality of the State's data and information, including the State's FFY 2010 APR and revised SPP, other State-reported data, information obtained through verification visits, and other publicly available information. See the enclosure entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) of the IDEA in 2012: Part B" for further details.

Specific factors affecting the determination made by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that CNMI meets requirements under IDEA section 616(d) include that: (1) CNMI provided valid and reliable FFY 2010 data reflecting the measurement for each indicator; and (2) CNMI reported high levels of compliance or correction for Indicators 11, 12, 13, 15, and 20. We commend CNMI for its performance.

The enclosed table provides OSEP's analysis of CNMI's FFY 2010 APR and revised SPP and identifies, by indicator, OSEP's review of any revisions CNMI made to its targets, improvement activities (timelines and resources), and baseline data in CNMI's SPP. The table also identifies, by indicator: (1) CNMI's reported FFY 2010 data; (2) whether such data met CNMI's FFY 2010 targets and reflect progress or slippage from the prior year's data; and (3) whether CNMI corrected findings of noncompliance.

As you know, pursuant to IDEA section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(A), States must report annually to the public on the performance of each local educational agency (LEA) located in the State on the targets in the SPP as soon as practicable, but no later than June 1, 2012. Because your jurisdiction is a unitary entity (i.e., the SEA is the only LEA), you may meet this public reporting requirement by posting your FFY 2010 APR on CNMI's educational agency's Web site and making it available to the public, consistent with 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(B). For further information regarding these requirements, see "The Right IDEA" Web site at: <http://therightidea.tadnet.org/determinations>. Finally, please ensure that your updated SPP is posted on CNMI's educational agency's Web site and made available to the public, consistent with 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(B).

OSEP is committed to supporting CNMI's efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and looks forward to working with CNMI over the next year. If you have any

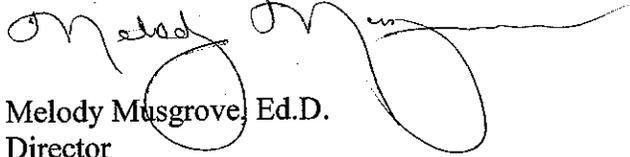
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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please contact Tammy Proctor, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-7333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melody Musgrove", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

Enclosures

cc: State Director of Special Education