



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

JUL 01 2013

Honorable Hilda C. Heine  
Minister of Education  
Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Education  
Post Office Box 3  
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Minister Heine:

Thank you for the timely submission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011 Annual Performance Report (APR) and revised State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) has determined that, under IDEA section 616(d)(2)(A)(i), RMI meets the requirements of Part B of the IDEA. The Department's determination is based on the totality of the RMI's data and information, including RMI's FFY 2011 APR and revised SPP, other RMI-reported data, and other publicly available information. RMI's data are reflected in a new 2013 Compliance Matrix (Compliance Matrix), described below.

RMI's determination is based on the data reflected in the enclosed "2013 Part B Compliance Matrix" that the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) completed based on RMI's data. Also, enclosed is the document entitled, "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 2013: Part B," which provides a detailed description of how OSEP evaluated RMI's data using the Compliance Matrix. The Compliance Matrix reflects the compliance data summarized in RMI's FFY 2011 APR/SPP Response Table.

The enclosed RMI FFY 2011 Response Table provides OSEP's analysis of RMI's FFY 2011 APR and revised SPP. The Response Table includes: (1) the Indicators; (2) the Results Data Summary; (3) the Results Data Summary Notes; (4) the Compliance Data Summary; and (5) the Compliance Data Summary Notes. In the Results Data Summary and the Compliance Data Summary, the Response Table sets forth, by indicator, RMI's: (1) reported FFY 2010 data; (2) reported FFY 2011 data; and (3) FFY 2011 target(s), in a concise "dashboard" format. The Compliance Data Summary also includes a column that reflects the number of findings of noncompliance identified in FFY 2010, and the correction of those findings. In the "Notes" sections following the Results Data Summary and the Compliance Data Summary, OSEP has provided more detailed information regarding specific indicators, including, where appropriate, information regarding: (1) a State's correction of any remaining findings of noncompliance identified in years prior to FFY 2010; (2) any issues

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with the validity and reliability of the data that a State reported; and (3) any required actions. It is important that RMI read the information for each indicator in the Results Data Summary and the Compliance Data Summary together with any Notes for that indicator.

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 120 days after ROP's submission of its FFY 2011 APR. 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 2011 APR on the RMI's educational agency's website 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 the RMI educational agency's Web site and made available to the public, consistent with 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(B).

As you know, OSEP is redesigning its accountability system to more directly support States in improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities, and their families. Section 616 of the IDEA requires that the primary focus of IDEA monitoring must be on improving educational results and functional outcomes for children with disabilities, and ensuring that States meet the IDEA program requirements. The monitoring system implemented between 2004 and 2012 placed a heavy emphasis on compliance and we are moving towards a more balanced approach that considers results as well as compliance.

OSEP is committed to several key principles to guide the development of a results-driven accountability system, including transparency, stakeholder involvement, and burden reduction. In support of these principles, we are taking a number of steps. First, we solicited input from special education, early intervention, assessment, and early childhood outcomes experts, and gathered input from the public through conference calls, a blog on the Department's Web site, and through multiple meetings and conferences. Next, OSEP published for comment a new SPP/APR package for FFYs 2013 through 2018 that significantly reduces data collection and reporting burden by States, and shifts the focus of the SPP/APR to improving educational results and functional outcomes for children with disabilities. Third, as explained above, this year OSEP has incorporated compliance data into a matrix that is helpful in simultaneously processing multiple sets of data, and has used this matrix in making determinations. This Compliance Matrix includes a color-coded system (green, yellow, red) that provides a visual representation of a State's performance. Finally, as we move forward in using results data in determinations, OSEP will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on how we will use results when making IDEA determinations in 2014 under section 616.

OSEP recognizes RMI's efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and looks forward to working with RMI over the next year as we continue our important work of improving the lives of children with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please contact Lucille Sleger, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-7528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody Musgrove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "K" at the end.

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

Enclosures

cc: Director of Special Education