



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

APR 30 2010

Honorable Casiano Shoniber
Secretary
National Department of Education
Federated States of Micronesia
P.O. Box PS 70
Pohnpei State, FSM 96941

Dear Secretary Shoniber:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) verification visit to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Department of Education (NDOE) during the week of November 16, 2009. As indicated in the letter to you dated July 2, 2009, OSEP is conducting verification visits to a number of States as part of our Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System (CIFMS) for ensuring compliance with, and improving performance under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). CIFMS is designed to ensure compliance and improve performance with Parts B and C of the IDEA in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1416. Section 616 of the IDEA requires the Department to monitor States with a focus on: (1) improving educational results and functional outcomes for children and youth with disabilities; and (2) ensuring that States meet the program requirements, particularly those most closely related to improving educational results for children with disabilities.

The purpose of the verification visit is to review the State's systems for general supervision, collection of State-reported data, and fiscal management, as well as the State's systems for improving child and family outcomes and protecting child and family rights. During the verification visit, OSEP: (1) analyzed the components of FSM's general supervision, data and fiscal systems to determine the extent to which they are effective in ensuring compliance and improving performance; and (2) reviewed the accuracy of the data the FSM submitted for selected indicators in the State's FFY 2007 Annual Performance Report (APR)/State Performance Plan (SPP).

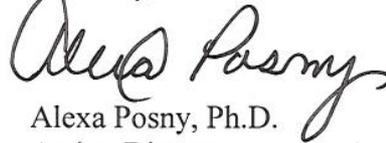
As part of the verification visit to FSM-NDOE, OSEP staff met with Arthur Albert, the Director of Special Education in the National Special Education Office (NSEO) and FSM-NDOE personnel responsible for implementing the general supervision, data or fiscal systems. Prior to and during the visit, OSEP staff reviewed a number of documents, including the following: (1) FSM's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 APR submitted to OSEP in February 2009; (2) FSM's SPP submitted to OSEP in December 2005 and updated in 2007, 2008 and 2009; (3) FSM's eligibility document submissions under Part B of the IDEA for FFY 2009; (4) OSEP's Verification Visit letter to FSM dated July 17, 2007; (5) FSM Department of Education's website; and (6) other pertinent

information¹.

OSEP developed critical elements that were used to guide its evaluation of FSM's general supervision, data, and fiscal systems. OSEP's analysis of each critical element and any required actions, if noncompliance was identified during the verification visit, are provided in the Enclosure to this letter. As further detailed in that Enclosure, OSEP found noncompliance, and has required corrective action in the following areas: (1) procedures for monitoring compliance with secondary transition requirements in 34 CFR §300.320(b); (2) timely correction of noncompliance; (3) procedures and practices that are reasonably designed to implement all of the dispute resolution requirements in IDEA; and (4) procedures to implement the private school requirements in 34 CFR §§300.130 through 300.148.

OSEP appreciates the cooperation and assistance of the National Advisory Panel and parents in providing feedback and input on FSM-NDOE's systems for special education. We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders and actively working with FSM to improve results for children with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions or wish to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call your OSEP State Contact, Genee Norbert, at 202-245-7326.

Sincerely,



Alexa Posny, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

cc: Arthur Albert, Director of Special Education

¹ Documents reviewed as part of the verification process were not reviewed for legal sufficiency, but rather to inform OSEP's understanding of your State's systems.