



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

FEB 11 2011

Honorable Kathryn Matayoshi
Superintendent of Education
Hawaii Department of Education
1390 Miller Street, #307
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Superintendent Matayoshi:

This letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) verification visit to the Hawaii Department of Education during the week of October 25, 2010. As indicated in our letter to you dated July 22, 2010, 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).¹ Section 616 of the IDEA requires the Department to monitor States with a focus on: (1) improving early intervention and educational results and functional outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities; and (2) ensuring that States meet the program requirements, particularly those most closely related to improving early intervention and educational results for children and youth 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. OSEP developed critical elements that were used to guide its evaluation of Hawaii's general supervision, data, and fiscal systems. The Enclosure to this letter describes the scope of OSEP's review of the State's systems and briefly outlines relevant statutory and regulatory requirements for each critical element. Generally, the Enclosure to this letter does not include descriptions of the State's systems because this information is available on the State's Web site in the State's State Performance Plan (SPP). 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.

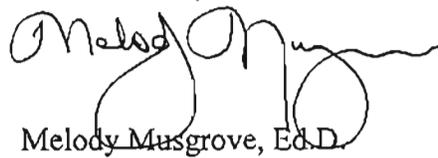
OSEP would like to recognize the following initiatives implemented in the State that are designed to improve results for children and youth with disabilities: (1) the State's partnership with Hawaii's Department of Vocational Rehabilitation facilitates employment for youth with disabilities through work projects and after school programs. The outcomes of the programs and projects focus on the promotion of self-determination for youth with disabilities and skills that will lead to youths' maintaining employment; and (2) the State's Literacy for Learning initiative which supports the provision of services to children with disabilities in the general education classes and focuses on improving student post-school outcomes, and graduation and dropout rates.

¹ During the week of October 25, 2010, OSEP also conducted its Part C verification visit to the Hawaii Department of Health Services.

Page 2 – Honorable Kathryn Matayoshi:

Additionally, OSEP appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by your State staff and others, including staff from the Parent Resource Network and parents of children and youth with disabilities in providing feedback and input on the State's systems for special education. We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders and actively working with the State to improve results for children and youth 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, Debra Jennings, at (202) 245-7389.

Sincerely,

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

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

Enclosure

cc: Kristy Nishimura

State Director of Special Education