



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

Honorable Nidel Lorak
Minister of Education
Republic of the Marshall Islands
P.O. Box 3
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands 96960

FEB - 8 2011

Dear Minister Lorak:

This letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) verification visit with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Ministry of Education (MOE) in San Francisco, California, during the week of November 8, 2010. As indicated in our letter to you dated July 22, 2010, OSEP is conducting verification visits to a number of States and outlying areas 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). Section 616 of the IDEA requires the Department to monitor States and outlying areas 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 and outlying areas 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 RMI's systems for general supervision, collection of RMI reported data, and fiscal management, as well as RMI'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 RMI's general supervision, data and fiscal systems. The Enclosure to this letter describes the scope of OSEP's review of RMI'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 RMI's systems because this information is available in RMI's State Performance Plan. 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 identified noncompliance relevant to the following areas: (1) RMI has not issued written findings of noncompliance when individualized education programs were reviewed and did not meet the requirements in 34 CFR §§300.320 and 300.324; (2) RMI has not ensured valid and reliable exiting data and assessment data as required in section 618 of the IDEA; and (3) RMI has not developed procedures that are reasonably designed to calculate properly RMI's financial support for special education and related services as required in section 612(a)(18)(A) of the IDEA and 34 CFR §300.163(a).

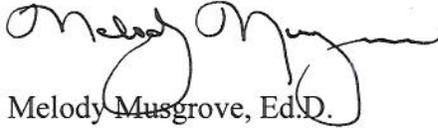
OSEP would like to recognize several effective practices being implemented in RMI that are designed to improve results for children and youth with disabilities. RMI MOE has increased vocational training and work-study opportunities for youth with disabilities through collaboration with the National Vocational Training Institute and the RMI Private Industry Council. In addition, RMI has employed twelve high school transition teachers as an improvement activity to decrease the dropout rate in RMI high schools.

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-2600
www.ed.gov

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

Additionally, OSEP appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by RMI staff and others, including staff from RMI's Special Education Advisory Council in providing feedback and input on RMI's systems for special education. We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders and actively working with RMI 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, Lucille Sleger, at (202) 245-7528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melody Musgrove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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

Enclosure

cc: Ruthiran Lokeijak
State Director of Special Education