



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

JUN 3 2010

Honorable Rita A. Sablan
Commissioner of Education
CNMI Public School System
P.O. Box 501370 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Commissioner Sablan:

Thank you for the timely submission of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI's) Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 Annual Performance Report (APR) and revised State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Department has determined that, under IDEA sections 616(d)(2)(A)(i) and 642, CNMI meets the requirements of Part C of IDEA. The Department's determination is based on the totality of CNMI's data and information, including CNMI's FFY 2008 APR and revised SPP, other CNMI-reported data, and other publicly available information. See the enclosure entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) and 642 of the IDEA in 2010: Part C" for further details.

Specific factors affecting the determination made by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that CNMI meets requirements under IDEA sections 616(d) and 642 include: (1) CNMI provided valid and reliable FFY 2008 data reflecting the measurement for each indicator; and (2) CNMI reported high levels of compliance or correction of previously identified findings of noncompliance for Indicators 1, 7, 8A, 8B, 8C, 9, 10, 11, and 14. We commend CNMI for its performance.

The enclosed table provides OSEP's analysis of CNMI's FFY 2008 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 2008 data; (2) whether such data met CNMI's FFY 2008 targets and reflect progress or slippage from prior year's data; and (3) whether CNMI corrected findings of noncompliance.

As you know, pursuant to IDEA sections 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 642, the State lead agency must report annually to the public on the performance of each early intervention services program (EIS program) located in the jurisdiction on the targets in the SPP. Because your jurisdiction is a unitary entity (i.e., the State lead agency is the only EIS program), you may meet this public reporting requirement by posting your FFY 2008 APR on CNMI's website and making it available to the public, consistent with IDEA sections 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 642. If your SPP includes revisions to baseline, targets or improvement activities in your APR submission, and OSEP accepted those revisions, please ensure that your SPP is updated accordingly and that the updated SPP is posted on CNMI's website and made available to the public, consistent with IDEA sections 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 642.

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

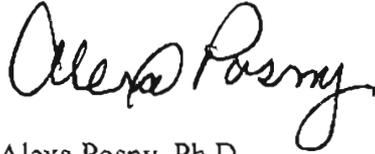
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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please contact Lucille Sleger, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-7528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexa Posny". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Enclosures

cc: Part C Coordinator