



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

JUN 20 2011

Honorable Rita Sablan
Commissioner of Education
CNMI Public School System
PO Box 501370 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Dr. Sablan:

Thank you for the timely submission of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI's) Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 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 2009 APR and revised SPP (including targets and improvement activities for each year through FFY 2012), other CNMI reported data, information obtained through verification visits, and other publicly available information. See the enclosure entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) and 642 of the IDEA in 2011: 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 that: (1) CNMI provided valid and reliable FFY 2009 data reflecting the measurement for each indicator; (2) CNMI reported high levels of compliance or correction of previously identified findings of noncompliance for Indicators 1, 7, 8A, 8B, 8C, and 14; and (3) CNMI reported under Indicator 9 both a high level of compliance in timely correcting FFY 2008 findings of noncompliance and that it verified the correction of FFY 2008 findings of noncompliance consistent with OSEP Memorandum 09-02, dated October 17, 2008. We commend CNMI for its performance.

The enclosed table provides OSEP's analysis of CNMI's FFY 2009 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 2009 data; (2) whether such data met CNMI's FFY 2009 targets and reflect progress or slippage from the prior year's data; and (3) whether CNMI corrected findings of noncompliance. In addition, OSEP is responding to CNMI's Verification Visit issues in the enclosed table.

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 2009 APR on CNMI's Web site and making it available to the public, consistent with IDEA sections 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 642. For further information regarding these requirements, see "The Right IDEA" Web site at:

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

www.ed.gov

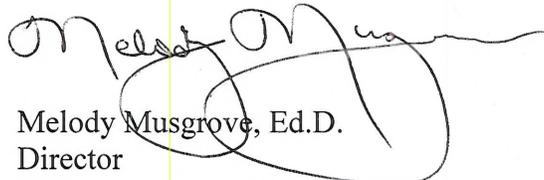
The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

<http://therightidea.tadnet.org/determinations>. Finally, please ensure that your updated SPP is posted on CNMI's lead agency's Web site and made available to the public, consistent with IDEA sections 616(d)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 642.

As you know, pursuant to IDEA section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(A), CNMI must report annually to the public on its on the targets in the SPP as soon as practicable, but no later than June 1, 2011.

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 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 "Melody Musgrove", written over a circular stamp or seal.

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

Enclosures

cc: Part C Coordinator