



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

Honorable Nerissa Bretania-Shafer
Superintendent of Education
Guam Public School System
Post Office Box DE
Hagatna, Guam 96932

APR 1 2009

Dear Superintendent Bretania-Shafer:

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 Guam Public School System (GPSS) and the Guam Early Intervention System during the week of November 17, 2008. As indicated in our letter to you dated August 12, 2008, OSEP is conducting verification visits to a number of States as part of our Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System (CIFMS). CIFMS is designed to ensure compliance and improve performance with Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Sections 616 and 642 of the IDEA require 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 results for infants, toddlers with disabilities, and 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 the State's general supervision, data and fiscal systems to determine whether they are reasonably designed to ensure compliance and improve performance; and (2) reviewed data the State submitted for selected indicators in the State's FFY 2006 Annual Performance Report (APR)/State Performance Plan (SPP).

As part of the verification visit to Guam, OSEP staff met with May Camacho, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, Patricia Mantanona, Part C Coordinator and State personnel responsible for implementing the general supervision, data or fiscal systems, and local agency and school staff. Prior to and during the visit, OSEP staff reviewed a number of documents, including the following: (1) Guam's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 Part B and Part C APRs submitted to OSEP in February 2008; (2) Guam's Part B and Part C SPPs submitted to OSEP in December 2005 and updated in 2007 and 2008; (3) Guam's eligibility document submissions under Part B and Part C of the IDEA for FFY 2008; (4) OSEP's Verification Visit letter to Guam dated March 7, 2005; (5) GPSS's website; and (6) other pertinent information.¹

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.

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OSEP developed critical elements that were used to guide its evaluation of Guam's general supervision, data, and fiscal systems. OSEP's analysis of each critical element is set out in two enclosures to this letter, one for Part B and one for Part C. The enclosures identify any noncompliance with applicable Part B or Part C requirements and any required actions that OSEP has determined the State must take to address the noncompliance.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by GPSS personnel during our visit. We look forward to collaborating with the State as you continue to work to improve results for infants, toddlers, and 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 Part B State Contact, Richard Steffan, at 202-245-6759 or your OSEP Part C State Contact, Charles Kniseley at 202-245-7322.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Guard
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

cc: May Camacho,
Assistant Superintendent of Special Education

Patricia Mantanona,
Part C Coordinator