



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

Honorable Mario Katosang  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
Republic of Palau  
Post Office Box 189  
Koror, Palau 96940

MAR 20 2006

Dear Minister Katosang:

Thank you for your timely submission of Palau's State Performance Plan (SPP) for review under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Section 616(b) of the Act requires States to submit, within one year after the date of enactment of the reauthorized IDEA, an SPP that evaluates the State's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of IDEA and describes how the State will improve implementation. We appreciate Palau's efforts in preparing the SPP under a short timeline and in the face of many other competing priorities. In the SPPs, due by December 2, 2005, States were to include: (1) baseline data that reflect the State's efforts to implement Part B of the IDEA; (2) measurable and rigorous targets for the next six years for each of the indicators established by the Secretary in the priority areas under section 616(a) of the IDEA; and (3) activities the State will undertake to improve implementation of Part B.

OSEP is pleased to inform you that Palau's SPP under Part B meets the requirements of section 616(b) to include measurable and rigorous targets and improvement activities. Palau must make its SPP available through public means, including posting on the Palau educational agency's website, distribution to the media, and distribution through public agencies. (Section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I))

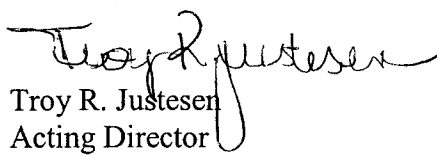
Under section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(II) of the Act, Palau must annually report to OSEP on its performance under the SPP. Palau's first Annual Performance Report (APR) on its progress in meeting its targets is due to OSEP by February 1, 2007. Attached to this letter you will find Table A addressing issues identified during our review of the SPP that – while not requiring disapproval of your plan – will affect our annual determination of State performance and compliance based on data presented in Palau's APR. As a result, Palau needs to provide additional information as part of its February 2007 APR submission. Table B includes OSEP's analysis of your submission related to previously-identified noncompliance or other issues included in our October 18, 2005 letter that responded to Palau's FFY 2003 APR.

In addition to reporting to OSEP, Palau must report annually to the public on its performance on the targets in the State's performance plan. (Section 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I)) The requirement for public reporting on performance is a critical provision related to ensuring accountability and focusing on improved results for children with disabilities. OSEP will be providing technical assistance regarding the reporting on performance, at the National Accountability Conference, September 18 and 19, 2006 in Denver and through periodic technical assistance conference calls.

We hope that Palau found the August 5, 2005 guidance on submission of the SPPs and the technical assistance that we provided through the August 11-12, 2005 Summer Institute, periodic conference calls, and the SPP Resources website helpful in this endeavor. If you have any feedback on our past technical assistance efforts or the needs of States for guidance, we would be happy to hear from you as we work to develop further mechanisms to support State improvement activities.

Thank you for your continued work to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and their families. We encourage you to work closely with your State Contact as you proceed in implementing improvement activities and developing your APR. If you have any questions regarding the SPP or the APR, please contact Debra Jennings at 202-245-7389.

Sincerely,



Troy R. Justesen  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education  
Programs

Enclosures

Table A

Table B

cc: Mr. Evans Imetengel  
State Director of Special Education