



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

JUN 15 2007

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

Dear Minister Katosang:

Thank you for the timely submission of the Republic of Palau's (ROP's) Annual Performance Report (APR) and revised State Performance Plan (SPP) under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended in 2004.

As you know, under IDEA section 616, each State has an SPP that evaluates the State's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of Part B of the IDEA and describes how the State will improve its implementation of Part B. In the revised SPP due by February 1, 2007, States were required to provide information on: (1) specific new indicators; and (2) correction of any deficiencies identified in the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) SPP response letter sent to your State last year. States were also required to submit by February 1, 2007, an APR for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2005 that describes the State's: (1) progress or slippage in meeting the measurable and rigorous targets established in the SPP; and (2) any revisions to the State's targets, improvement activities, timelines or resources in the SPP and justifications for the revisions. We appreciate the State's efforts in preparing the FFY 2005 APR and revised SPP.

The Department has reviewed the information provided in the State's FFY 2005 APR and revised SPP, other State-reported data, information obtained through monitoring visits, and other public information and has determined that, under IDEA section 616(d), the State needs assistance in meeting the requirements of Part B of the IDEA. The State should review IDEA section 616(e) regarding the potential future impact of the Department's determination.

The Department's determination is based on the totality of the State's data in its SPP/APR and other publicly available information, including any compliance issues. The factors in the State's FFY 2005 APR and February 1, 2007 SPP submissions that affected the Department's determinations were whether the State: (1) provided valid and reliable FFY 2005 data that reflect the measurement for each indicator, and if not, whether the State provided a plan to collect the missing or deficient data; and (2) for each compliance indicator that was not new (a) demonstrated compliance or timely corrected noncompliance, and (b) in instances where it did not demonstrate compliance, had nonetheless made progress in ensuring compliance over prior performance in that area.

400 MARYLAND AVE., S.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

*Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation.*

We also considered whether the State had other IDEA compliance issues that were identified previously through the Department's monitoring, audit or other activities, and the State's progress in resolving those problems. See the enclosure entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) of the IDEA in 2007" for further details.

A specific factor that affected OSEP's determination of needs assistance for the ROP was that the ROP did not report any data for Indicator 15. For this reason, we were unable to determine that the ROP met requirements under section 616(d). Balancing this factor was the fact that the ROP provided valid and reliable FFY 2005 data for the measurement for the remaining applicable indicators. We hope that the ROP will be able to demonstrate that it meets requirements in its next APR.

The table enclosed with this letter provides OSEP's analysis of the ROP's FFY 2005 APR and revised SPP and identifies, by indicator, OSEP's review and acceptance of any revisions made by the State to its targets, improvement activities (timelines and resources) and baseline data in the ROP's SPP. It also identifies, by indicator, the ROP's status in meeting its targets, and whether the ROP's data reflect progress or slippage, and whether the ROP corrected noncompliance and provided valid and reliable data. The table also lists, by indicator, any additional information the ROP must include in the FFY 2006 APR or, as needed, the SPP due February 1, 2008, to address the problems OSEP identified in the revised SPP or FFY 2005 APR. The ROP must provide this required information. We plan to factor into our determinations next year whether or not States provided the additional information requested in this table in their FFY 2006 APR, due February 1, 2008, and may take other actions as well, if the ROP's data, or lack of data, regarding these issues indicates continuing noncompliance.

We hope that the ROP found helpful, and was able to benefit from, the monthly technical assistance conference calls conducted by this Office, ongoing consultation with OSEP State Contacts and OSEP-funded Technical Assistance Center staff, materials found on the IDEA 2004 website, and attendance at OSEP-sponsored conferences. OSEP will continue to provide technical assistance opportunities to assist the ROP as it works to improve performance under Part B of the IDEA. 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.

OSEP is committed to supporting the ROP's efforts to improve results for children with disabilities and looks forward to working with the ROP over the next year. If you have

any questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call Debra Jennings, your OSEP State Contact, at 202-245-7389.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Guard  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

cc: State Director of Special Education