



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

JUL 1 2008

Honorable David Borja
Commissioner of Education
CNMI Public School System
P.O. Box 501370 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Commissioner Borja:

This is to inform you that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 funds, under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part B), can be approved. Our approval is based on review of your application submitted by the CNMI Public School System to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 11, 2008, including assurances provided in Section II which are incorporated by reference to this letter as noted in Enclosure A.

Enclosed is the grant award for funds currently available under the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2008 for the Part B Section 611 (Grants to States) program. These funds are for use primarily in school year 2008-2009 and are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010.

CNMI's FFY 2008 IDEA Part B grant award is being released subject to the conditions identified in the enclosed U.S. Department of Education July 1, 2008 letter to CNMI, included as Enclosure C, regarding program and fiscal accountability.

Please note that as part of your application for FFY 2008, CNMI has made an assurance, in 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the periods for which it receives grant funding. Any changes made by CNMI, after OSEP approval, to information that is a part of CNMI's application, must meet the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §300.165.

The amount shown in your award for the Section 611 program is only part of the total funds that will be awarded to you for FFY 2008. Of the \$10,947,511,571 appropriated for Section 611 in FFY 2008, \$4,091,067,571 is available for awards on July 1, 2008, and \$6,856,444,000 will be available on October 1, 2008.

Enclosure B provides a short description of how Section 611 funds were allocated and how those funds can be used. In addition, Table I in Enclosure B shows funding levels for distribution of Section 611 funds and the parameters for within-State allocations.

The enclosed grant award for FFY 2008 is made with the continued understanding that this Office may, from time to time, require clarification of information within your application, if necessary. These inquiries are needed to allow us to appropriately carry out our administrative responsibilities related to Part B.

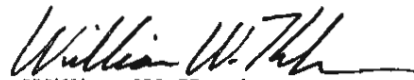
Section 606 provides that each recipient of assistance under IDEA make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in programs assisted

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under the IDEA. Therefore, by accepting this grant a State is expressly agreeing as a condition of IDEA funding to ensuring that positive efforts are made to employ and advance employment of qualified individuals with disabilities in programs assisted under the IDEA.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality educational services to children with disabilities.

Sincerely,



William W. Knudsen

Acting Director

Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

Enclosure A

Enclosure B

Enclosure C

cc: State Director of Special Education