



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 4, 2018

Superintendent Jon Fernandez
Guam Department of Education
500 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913

Dear Superintendent Fernandez,

As a follow-up to your meetings with U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff on July 16 and 18, 2018 in Washington, DC, we are providing this written response to address next steps in the reconsideration process. During the meetings, Department staff explained that the process will involve evaluating the Guam Department of Education's (GDOE) progress on meeting the requirements in the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Department-wide specific conditions, taking into account the progress as reported in the most recent GDOE Comprehensive Corrective Action Plan (CCAP) quarterly report.

The reconsideration request dated May 29, 2018, requests the Department to consider the removal of the Department-wide specific conditions, including the condition requiring third-party fiduciary agent oversight. The reconsideration evaluation process which is outlined in the attachment is intended to help ensure that the Department safeguards the appropriate accountability and use of Federal funds awarded to GDOE while contemporaneously assessing GDOE's progress and the extent to which requirements under the specific conditions may be removed.

To that end, and to clarify the specifics of the reconsideration process, we have developed the attached Reconsideration Evaluation Plan (REP), which is based on the Department-wide specific conditions, including the Department's review and assessment of the status of the CCAP, CCAP actions that remain outstanding, and Guam's addressing of the issues in the 2015 Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audit report. The REP includes critical actions, milestones, and timelines to guide GDOE in addressing any remaining deficiencies identified by the Department in need of completion. As GDOE demonstrates successful completion of tasks included in the REP, the Department will be prepared to modify or remove the Department-wide specific conditions, including the removal of the requirement for the third-party fiduciary agent (TPFA) oversight when appropriate. As part of the reconsideration evaluation, a team of Department staff may also conduct periodic onsite visits to GDOE to further document reported progress against the REP, and will share their findings with Department leadership at the conclusion of each visit, and ultimately with GDOE. Bi-weekly conference calls with participation from the GDOE and TPFA leadership, Department program staff, and the Risk

Management Service will continue and will be restructured to gather additional information to help assess GDOE's progress on the REP.

As expressed during our meeting, we are committed to moving the reconsideration process forward with a focus on identifying specific conditions that may be modified or removed based on GDOE's progress. We look forward to continuing to work with GDOE in support of the ultimate goal of returning to GDOE full responsibility for managing and administering its Department grant funds.

If you have any questions, comments, or proposed revisions to the attached draft, please let us know by October 31, 2018. If you require additional clarification or have questions overall related to the REP or reconsideration process, do not hesitate to contact Christine Jackson, Risk Management Service at (202) 245-8276, Christine.Jackson@ed.gov or Jamila Smith, School Support and Rural Programs (SSRP) at (202) 453-6360, Jamila.Smith@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margo" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Anderson".

Margo Anderson
Director
Risk Management Service
Office of the Deputy Secretary

Cc: Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo