



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
OFFICE OF GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

August 7, 2020

Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Public Auditor
Office of Public Accountability
Suite 401 DNA Building
238 Archbishop Flores Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

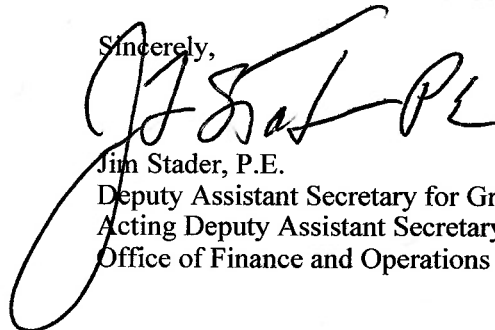
Dear Auditor Cruz,

Thank you for your letter dated July 31, 2020 to Secretary DeVos and Assistant Secretary Frank Brogan requesting information on the progress made by the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) towards satisfying the Departmental specific conditions (conditions) regarding the Reconsideration Evaluation Plan (REP) and the third-party fiduciary agent (TPFA). Presently, U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff are in the process of completing the assessment of, and developing the final determination for, the GDOE REP virtual monitoring review process conducted July 13-15, 2020. Specifically, Department staff representing the Risk Management Services Division (RMSD), Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) and Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) are using the information gathered during the virtual monitoring review, as well as documentation submitted to the Department by the GDOE, to inform any decision to possibly modify the FY2020 Departmental specific conditions placed on GDOE federal education grants.

While the Department acknowledges the extensive effort GDOE has put forward over the years to make improvements in its fiscal management operations and internal controls, the TPFA requirement as a whole will be removed as a specific condition once GDOE is able to fully demonstrate the capacity of its staff to consistently apply these improvements across all of its federal programs. The Department anticipates transmittal of the final REP determination to Superintendent Fernandez by August 31, 2020.

If you require additional information in response to your inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Robinson, Director, Risk Management Services Division on 202-245-8280.

Sincerely,



Jim Stader, P.E.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grants Administration
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition Management
Office of Finance and Operations

cc: Frank Brogan, Assistant Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education