

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-46

RE: C.R. NO. 20-63/EDUCATION

SUBJECT: APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$3,032,657 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018.

DECEMBER 13, 2017

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Twentieth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Special Session, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred C.R. No.
20-63, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$3,032,657 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 FUND UNDER
PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION
ACT, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE
ASSISTANCE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in
its title.

Your Committee held a public hearing on the above captioned
matter on December 11, 2017. Present at this hearing were
the Secretary of the Department of Education and his key
staff, and representatives from the Department of Justice
and the Office of the President.

Staff from the NDOE Division of Special Education,
including the Chief of the Division were present at the

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hearing and gave an update of the services and programs for this school year 2017/2018. The grant which is the subject of this report is the second half of the funding for this school year.

The Division of Special Education has always been an important part of our Nation's educational system. The program is well known to the Committee, and the Chief of the Division has been long serving as head of this program. The Chief of Special Education provided new statistics to the Committee that show as of 2017 it served the needs of 1,942 of our young people from age 3 to 21 who have disabilities. Currently the number of personnel, including all teachers and administrators at the state level, is 308. Over the last several years the number of students has declined slightly while the number of teachers has increase by 20% in the last three years.

The Committee inquired as to the dramatic increase in the amount of funding under this grant that is used for personnel at the state level. Currently 80% of the proposed funding is to be used for personnel. The Committee also raised concerns that training, textbooks, specialized equipment and other necessary supplies for this program are being compromised by the high percentage of funding utilized for personnel. The Chief of the Division stated that these were valid concerns and the NDOE Division of Special Education has given guidance to the states regarding this matter, however, it was the up to the states to do their budgeting. The Chief of the Division agreed with the Committee that training and supplies for special education has decreased across the Nation.

A detailed budget is attached with this report for the review of the members. It is substantially the same as in year's past. The Chief of the Division stated the formula for distribution is based on three factors: 1) population of the state, 2) number of children per state served, and

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3) performance. Performance reports and activities for the Division of Special Education are on its website, which is also a link in the main NDOE website.

There has been examples of training that has been provided, including a recent training in Pohnpei for autism, but there are issues regarding these as well. This training highlights the problem of inconsistent delivery of training as it did not reach all the four states. The Committee strongly urged that future training efforts include all the four states, and as many teachers as possible.

The Committee also inquired as to whether specialized training or certificates were required to teach special education. The Chief of the Division stated that this was not a requirement and specialized courses were currently not available at COM-FSM. But, he added that a new bachelor's degree in education will be available in 2019, and a part of that degree's course requirements will be working with children with disabilities.

At the close of the hearing the Committee requested that NDOE Division of Special Education work with the all the four States, in an effort to utilize more of the Compact funding for teachers salaries, thereby freeing up money from this source to purchase supplies, textbooks, specialized equipment and additional training for teachers serving children with disabilities. The Committee will do additional oversight to look at this division in the coming year regarding the above issues.

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Your Committee would like to offer the following technical amendment to read as follows:

1) Page One, Line 17, delete "Second" and insert "Third" in lieu thereof.

Notwithstanding the concerns mentioned above, your Committee on Education is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 20-63, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 20-63, C.D. 1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Derensio S. Konman
Derensio S. Konman, vice chairman

Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Alik L. Alik
Alik L. Alik, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses
Esmond B. Moses, member

/s/ Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina, member

/s/ Ferny S. Perman
Ferny S. Perman, member