

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-51

RE: C.R. NO. 23-102/ED

SUBJECT: APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,564,294 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA), TO FUND THE FSM SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ITS SERVICES.

JANUARY 19, 2024

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses  
Speaker, Twenty-Third Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Third Regular Session, 2024

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education to which was referred C.R. NO. 23-102, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,564,294 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA), TO FUND THE FSM SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND ITS SERVICES, 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 the title.

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Your Committee has received two reports from the FSM Department of Education, Division of Special Services: 1) FSM Department of Education, 2023 Child Count; and 2) U.S. IDEA 2022 Part B Data Display on the FSM.

The FSM Special Education Program operations and services provided to our students with disabilities is funded by U.S. Department of Education annual grants under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). C.R. 23-102 is the second part of U.S. Department Education funding that is annually granted to the FSM Special Education Program. According to the U.S. Department of Education grant award notice, the \$2,564,294.25 award provides funding for the July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 budget period. There was a previous award grant of \$1,321,443.88 to the FSM Special Education program as detailed in C.R. 23-43, SCR No. 23-34.

In total for FY2024, the FSM Special Education Program has been awarded \$3,885,738.13 under IDEA.

Below is the FY2024 budget breakdown:

Budget Item	Funding
Personnel	\$2,783,582.13 (250 personnel at state level)
Travel	\$270,769
OCE	\$289,525
Contractual	\$453,862
Fixed Assets	\$88,000
Total	\$3,885,738.13

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C.R. 23-102 funding will serve FSM students with disabilities from birth through age 21. According to the FSM Department of Education, Division of Special Services 2023 Child Count Report based on December 1, 2022 data, there are 1,620 students with disabilities in the FSM.<sup>1</sup> Based on above, C.R. 23-102 funding will serve 1,620 students with disabilities.

Below is the C.R. 23-102 national and state funding breakdown specifically awarded:

Chuuk	\$1,016,554
Kosrae	\$569,053
Pohnpei	\$1,080,019
Yap	\$643,735
National	\$576,377.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,564,294</b>

Below is the student with disabilities population breakdown by state:

State	Student Population with Disabilities	State Percentage out of the nation
Chuuk	805	49.69%
Kosrae	134	8.27%
Pohnpei	537	33.15%
Yap	144	8.89%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1620</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> FSM Department of Education will issue its 2023 annual count assessment report on students with disabilities in March 2024.

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The specific projects and activities funded by the grant are:

- a. "Child find"<sup>2</sup>;
- b. IEP development, implementation, and progress monitoring of students' learning;
- c. Parent engagement, training, public awareness, and conferences on disability;
- d. Monitoring and evaluation of programs and services;
- e. Related Services in school and at homes<sup>3</sup>;
- f. Teacher trainings-literacy, data use, specially designed instructions;
- g. Literacy intervention reading programs;
- h. Resource room/consulting resource support to regular teachers; and

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<sup>2</sup> On January 17, 2024, Assistant Secretary of Special Services of the FSM Department of Education, Arthur Albert, reported to the Committee that "Child find" is the process to identify and evaluate children who may have a disability and need special education and related services. Child find is conducted periodically in school or in the communities. During community child find, other departments, such as Health and Nutrition & Child Health, are actively involved in the assessment process. Children who are identified with a disability and need special education and related services can be served at the school or in other environments, such as 'special-day school', home, and hospital. All FSM students with disabilities are either placed and served in schools or homes.

<sup>3</sup> On January 17, 2024, Assistant Secretary of Special Services of the FSM Department of Education, Arthur Albert, reported to the Committee reported to the Committee that related services are support services such as transportation, orthopedic therapy, speech therapy, and self-help, in order aid the child in complete benefit of the special education services provided. Services provided at homes are educational services with some 'related services', that may include hygiene, eating, and gross motor skills among others.

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- i. Consultation and support to parentally placed students with disabilities in private schools.

Learning disabilities, health related disabilities, hearing impairment, visual impairment, developmental delay, and autism are identified as disabilities impacting a significant percentage of the student disability population (National Department of Education, 2023 Count Report table, page 3 & 5).

Disability	Chuuk	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Yap	FSM
Autism	1	12	22	5	40
Developmental Delay	32	2	17	2	53
Hearing Impairments	25	7	20	4	56
Visual impairments	16	1	39	2	58
Health related Impairments	7	-	50	9	66
Learning Disability	682	86	308	94	1170
Speech/Language Impairment	8	15	28	17	68

The Committee review of the U.S. 2022 IDEA report reflects that there are 1,709 students with disabilities in the FSM. The U.S. 2022 IDEA report (based on FY2020 data) reflects a higher number of FSM students with disabilities in comparison to the FSM Department of Education 2023 Count Report. This is likely due to students aging out of the special education program between 2020 and 2022 that only serves children from birth to age 21.

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In addition, the U.S. 2022 IDEA report identifies autism spectrum disorder, developmental delay, health related disability impairment, and speech impairment as disabilities impacting a significant percentage of the FSM student disability population (Part B Data Display on FSM, page 3).

The United States 2022 IDEA Report on the FSM also reflects that only 44% of children with disabilities attend and receive special education and related services in an early childhood program. In addition, only 56.3% of students with disabilities graduated with a high school diploma in the FSM in 2020 (Part B Display Data on FSM, page 5).

#### CONCLUSION

The Committee on Education has reviewed C.R. No. 23-102, and is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 23-102. Your Committee recommends that C.R. 23-102 is placed on the resolution calendar for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Quincy Lawrence  
Quincy Lawrence, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses

/s/ Robson U. Romolow

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Esmond B. Moses, member

Robson U. Romolow, member

/s/ Perpetua S. Konman  
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