



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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COMMITTEE ON

Education

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-16

RE: C.R. No. 24-32/ED

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING AND APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,588,832 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO FUND THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE FEDREATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ASSISTANCE.

AUGUST 15, 2025

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses  
Speaker, Twenty-Fourth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
First Special Session, 2025

Dear Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred  
Congressional Resolution No. 24-32, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING A GRANT IN  
THE AMOUNT OF \$1,588,832 FROM THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO FUND THE SPECIAL  
EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE FEDREATED STATES OF  
MICRONESIA, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
OF ASSISTANCE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee held an hearing on C.R. 24-32 on August 12,  
2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Congress hearing room. In  
attendance at the hearing for the Department of Education

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was the Assistant Secretary with the Division of Special Services, Arthur Albert.

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. 24-32 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 \$1,588,831.69 award provides funding for the July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, budget period.

Assistant Secretary Albert testified that C.R. 24-32 funding will serve FSM students with disabilities from birth through age 21. According to the FSM Department of Education, Division of Special Services, there are 1,400 students with disabilities in the FSM. There are 639 children in Chuuk, 127 in Kosrae, 496 in Pohnpei, and 138 in Yap.

Assistant Secretary Albert noted that this is a decline in children served from years past. He stated that they have hypothesized that it could be due to outward migration or other factors but they have not done an assessment to determine why their numbers have decreased. He also cited the lack of trained specialists in Autism in the FSM as a potential factor. He mentioned that the Department currently has three specialists in the mainland U.S. that are on rotation to the FSM.

Your Committee inquired if we should expect this grant to continue in light of the recent policy changes in the U.S. Assistant Secretary Albert explained that this grant is awarded yearly and they are only guaranteed funding for the year that the award covers.

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The specific projects and activities funded by the grant are:

- a. "Child find", which is an process to identify and evaluate children with disabilities;
- 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;
- f. Teacher trainings-literacy, data use, specially designed instructions;
- g. Literacy intervention reading programs;
- h. Resource room/consulting resource support to regular teachers; and
- 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.

The Assistant Secretary provided your Committee with a comprehensive overview of the program which is attached to this report for your reference.

#### CONCLUSION

Your Committee has carefully reviewed Congressional Resolution No. 24-32 and the comprehensive overview compiled by the Department of Education. Your Committee on Education is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 24-32, and recommends that C.R. 24-32 be placed on the resolution calendar for adoption.

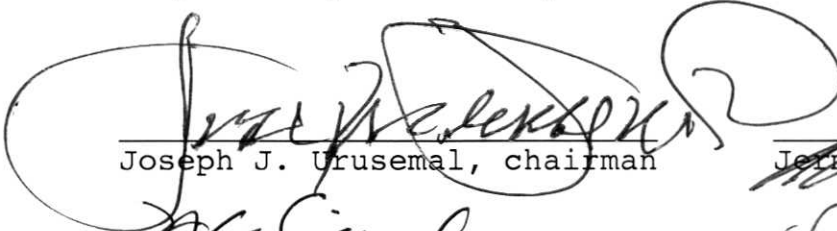
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2A-16

RE: C.R. No. 24-32/ED

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING AND APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,588,832 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO FUND THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ASSISTANCE.

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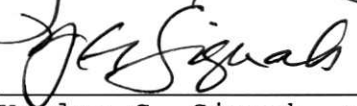
Respectfully submitted,




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Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman



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Jermy W. Mudong, member



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Yoslyn G. Sigrah, member



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Perpetua S. Kohman, member



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Esmond B. Moses, member

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Julio M. Marar, member

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Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, member

## Special Education Program Overview

This is an overview of the Special Education Program (SEP) in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with an historical background and how it evolved since its establishment in the late 1970s. SEP in the FSM is an offshoot of a complex US civil rights mandate called *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) that evolved since US Supreme Court ruling of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954)<sup>1</sup>. The US civil rights movement against segregated school systems led to the enactment of the first mandate called *Education for All Handicapped Children Act* (EHA) in 1975. In 1990, US reauthorized EHA and changed its title to *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (US P.L.94-142) and its overall goal is to provide children with disabilities the same opportunity accorded freely to those who do not have a disability.

Over time, IDEA has come to recognize the need to start early with newborn with disabilities and their families. The law was changed to require **early** childhood intervention services. It also evolved to focus on outcomes for students with disabilities, requiring states to have high expectations and to be accountable to positive student learning outcomes.

Prior to 1997, the Freely Associated States (FAS) had been eligible under IDEA as an "Outlying Area" similar to Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands and FSM had been receiving approximately 3.8 million per year. As a result of the IDEA Reauthorization in 1997 (U.S. P.L 101-476), the FAS became eligible only for a separate grant known as the *Special Education Program for Pacific Island Entities* (SEPPIE). SEPPIE was a discretionary grant that had a fixed funding level whereby all the Pacific entities (FAS and Outlying Areas) competed for funding. Since 1997, the amount FSM received, approximately 3.8 million per year, continues to be the same up until the next IDEA reauthorization in 2004.

In 2004, IDEA was again reauthorized as U.S. P.L. 108-446 and titled as *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act* (still using IDEA acronym). It was closely aligned to the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) mandate. The FAS is still only eligible for only Part B of the act and in the same amount they had been receiving since 1997. Efforts were made in the year prior to the reauthorization in 2004 to seek increased funding and eligibility to other parts of the act due to population and enrollment increase over the years. Visits and meetings were also in Washington D.C. by then FSM Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health, Education

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Individuals\\_with\\_Disabilities\\_Education\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Individuals_with_Disabilities_Education_Act)

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A RESOLUTION

Approving and accepting a grant in the amount of \$1,588,832 from the United States Department of Education, to fund the Special Education Program in the Federated States of Micronesia, including all the terms and conditions of the assistance.

1 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2025, the United States Department of  
2 Education issued a Grant Award in the amount of \$1,588,832 for the  
3 budget period from July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026; and

4 WHEREAS, the purpose of the grant is to fund and support the  
5 implementation of the FSM Special Education Program and its  
6 related services for eligible children with disabilities  
7 throughout the FSM; and

8 WHEREAS, section 210(2) of title 55 of the Code of the  
9 Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as amended, provides  
10 that for foreign financial assistance to be valid it must be  
11 approved by Congress by resolution; now, therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Federated  
13 States of Micronesia, First Special Session, 2025, that Congress  
14 hereby approves and accepts the \$1,588,832 grant from the United  
15 States Department Education, to fund the Special Education Program  
16 in the Federated States of Micronesia, including all the terms and  
17 conditions thereof; and

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1       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated  
3 States of Micronesia, the Secretary of the of Department of  
4 Education, and the Assistant Secretary of the Department of  
5 Education for Specialist Services.

6  
7 Date: 8/11/25

Introduced by: for /s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Julio M. Marar  
(by request)