



**GUAM PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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WILFRED G. AFLAGUE
Interim Superintendent of Education

June 24, 2008

MR. PHILIP A. MAESTRI
Director
Risk Management Service
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. S.W.
Washington D.C. 20202-0100

Dear Mr. Maestri:

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! I am in receipt of your letter dated June 17th, 2008, in which you indicated the potential withholding of Federal funds from the Guam Public School System (GPSS). Although I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide information before a final decision is made, I respectfully request that you reconsider withholding Federal funds for the following reasons:

Although the apparent instability of the GPSS Superintendent's position can indeed easily raise concerns about the school system's ability to continue its efforts to improve the administration of Federal grants, plan for effective use of Federal funds and to implement Federally-funded programs and projects in accordance with all applicable Federal requirements, we have remained diligent in ensuring that all Federally funded programs are in compliance with all applicable Federal rules and regulations.

Currently there are pending legislations to address these issues, however, notwithstanding the passage of said legislation, the Guam Public School System under the Federal Programs Division (State Program Office) maintains accountability of Federal funds through its internal control mechanism, the Comprehensive Corrective Action Plan (CCAP) as validated by Christine Jackson, USDOE Senior Consultant Risk Management in an e-mail communication (attached) dated March 12, 2008. In Ms. Jackson's communiqué, she noted:

"...Overall, it seems that GPSS is working diligently to strengthen the areas of management and fiscal oversight, in addition to delivering quality federal programs...Based on comments shared by the staff of the Public Auditor's Office and the Independent Auditor (Deloitte and Touche) GPSS is making progress and getting close to where it should be in addressing necessary improvements identified when it was designated as a high-risk grantee..."