



# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



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**JON J. P. FERNANDEZ**  
Superintendent of Education

August 27, 2013

The Honorable Eddie Baza Calvo  
Governor of Guam  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Dear Governor Calvo,

I am thankful for the meeting with your senior staff today regarding the budgetary needs of the Guam Department of Education (GDOE).

As you know, GDOE requested a \$290 million budget for Fiscal Year 2014 to meet all our mandates within the fiscal year. This year, the department has struggled, but has managed to operate within the \$212 million appropriated level. In my FY 2014 budget request, I communicated the basic needs of GDOE and explained how the rising cost of utilities along with additional facility-related expenses will cause our "status quo" operational needs to rise above \$220 million.

I am heartened by your proposal to raise the GDOE budget to \$225 million, exclusive of the Hay Study impact. With this funding level, we will be able to operate the school system; protect new facility investments such as the expansion of Okkodo High School, the relocation of Untalan Middle School, and renovation of Southern High School's fine arts auditorium and gym; *and* solve a long-standing problem -- over-crowding at George Washington High School.

Governor, with your support for amendments to the Core Tech lease at Tiyan, which the Legislature allowed for education and other government needs, we will be able to prepare the campus for a new Tiyan high school and allow the GDOE central office to move into an adequate facility that is safe for our employees. A new central high school will alleviate the crowding at GWHS and greatly improve the learning environment for thousands of students. Once the lease can accommodate these needs, I will work with GEDA and your staff to support the portion of the lease that GDOE will utilize.

Should you propose and the Legislature fully fund a "lump sum" education budget at the \$225 million level, exclusive of the Hay Study, and with the amendment to the Tiyan lease, I am confident that GDOE will be well-positioned in FY2014 to address the needs of students and their families. Therefore, I ask that this appropriated level appear in your new budget submission.

Furthermore, I take this opportunity to ask that you consider removing the budgetary reserve from GDOE's budget in Fiscal Year 2014. We will, of course, work towards greater efficiency, but we also need maximum flexibility in the use of our budget in order to adequately support all of our forty (40) schools.

Thank you for coming to the aid of our school children and employees by directing your administration to develop this financially-viable solution for the Department. With concurrence from the Guam Education Board Chairman, Dr. Jose Q. Cruz, I humbly submit this request.

Senseramente,



**JON J. P. FERNANDEZ**  
Superintendent of Education

Cc: Chairman and Members, Guam Education Board  
Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Administrative Services