



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
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March 3, 2014

TO: Principals, Head Teachers, and Special Education Teachers
FROM: Ministry of Education
SUBJECT: Special Education Policies and Procedures Handbook, Revised February 2014

Special Education Policies and Procedures, Revised February 2013, is herein amended to implement Chapter 26, Special Education, of Title 14 Ministry of Education Rules and Regulations (Revised June 2009). It is also intended to ensure implementation of the U. S. Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) consistent with the Act's statutory and regulatory requirements and the Ministry of Education's assurances in applying for and using the U.S. federal funds. These procedures supercede all previous special education policies and procedures. *Procedures amended by this revision are italicized.*

The revisions are promulgated in accordance with RMI and IDEA public participation requirements, including 60-day public notices published in the Marshall Islands Journal on November 28 and December 6, 2013, and public hearings conducted on Majuro on January 22 and on Ebeye on January 23, 2014.

RMI MOE 14-26-3 to implement RMI Public Law 1991-125 declares: The Ministry shall ensure that free appropriate public education shall be provided to all children with disabilities in accordance with the established procedures found in the Special Education Policies and Procedures Handbook.

"A child with disabilities" as defined by IDEA, U.S. Public Law 108-446, includes children with disabilities age three (3) to graduation from high school with a regular diploma or through age twenty-one (21) as determined by the Ministry as being disabled and needing special education to receive a free appropriate public education.

In implementing the enclosed policies and procedures, free appropriate public education will be assured all children with disabilities who require special education and related services.

Until such time as universal education for all students is realized in the Marshall Islands consistent with RMI Public Law 2003-93, "A child who has successfully completed elementary level education shall be eligible to enroll in secondary level education in any school in the Republic", children with disabilities who are not admitted to public high school on the same basis as all other children through passage of a high school entrance test, shall be admitted to secondary education through the special education provisions cited above and the procedures provided in this document.

If there are any questions or need for assistance in carrying out the enclosed policies and procedures, please contact the RMI Special Education Office on Majuro or on Ebeye.

Sincerely,

Hilda C. Heine, Ed.D.
Minister of Education

Gary Ueno
Secretary of Education