



STUDENTS FIRST

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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Establishing the CNMI Public School System

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System (CNMI PSS) was created pursuant to Article 15 of the CNMI Constitution, effective January 11, 1988, and 1CMC SECTION 2251 et.seq. of 1988. The CNMI PSS is the state education agency for pre-school, elementary, and secondary education programs for students ages six to sixteen, including special programs in early interventions for birth to three years old and children ages three to four in Head Start.

Prior to 1988 the CNMI PSS known as the Department of Education was under the Executive Branch of the central government. The first principal and superintendent of Education was William S. Reyes, followed by Jesus Concepcion, Issac Calvo, Loran Kaprowski, and Henry I. Sablan. Beginning in 1989, the tenure of the Commissioner of Education began with Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei, William S. Torres, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos, Dr. David Borja, and Dr. Rita Aldan Sablan, Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero, M.Ed., Glenn P. Muña, M.Ed., & currently Dr. Alfred B. Ada.

OUR VISION

Students will graduate college and career ready to be productive in an independent global society.

OUR MISSION

- To offer equal educational opportunity for all students by providing optimum curriculum, instruction, community service, and work experience in academic and career – technical education so that they become productive and contributing members of the Commonwealth and the global world,
- To guarantee challenging, engaging, and intentional instruction to ensure curricular pathways to success by providing whole-child student support through the creation of high performance school cultures and data driven “high-reliability” systems,
- To provide certified, qualified, and effective personnel,
- To plan, build, and maintain school facilities conducive to learning, safe, orderly, and accessible to all,
- To establish effective communication and collaboration of all stakeholders for meaningful and productive partnership, and
- To allocate financial and technical resources to meet the educational needs of all students.

Strategic Priorities Plus

- Student Success
- Highly Qualified and Effective Personnel
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Safe and Orderly Schools
- Invested Engagement
- High Performing and High Reliability Systems

CELEBRATING
32
YEARS OF
PUBLIC EDUCATION



“All CNMI Public Schools are nationally accredited by Cognia (formerly *AdvancED*). Cognia is the world leader in providing improvement and accreditation services to education providers of all types in their pursuit of excellence in serving students.



OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM AT-A-GLANCE



Information below has been extracted from **SY 2019-2020 Facts & Figures**. For additional information or a digital copy, please email our Records Management Program Manager Ms. Ruth Calvo from the Office of Accountability, Research & Evaluation at ruth.calvo@cnmipss.org or visit <https://www.cnmipss.org>.



A comprehensive report is available in our **SY 2019-2020 Annual Report** or visit <https://www.cnmipss.org>.

The information on this page reflects **School Year (SY) 2019-2020**. **Facts & Figures** compilation releases during the month November.

Our Schools & Centers

Our Schools & Centers	
Early Intervention	1 center
Early Head Start	5 centers
Elementary (K-5)	7 schools
Elementary (K-6)	2 schools
Middle Schools	5 schools
Jr. Sr. High Schools	2 schools
High Schools	5 schools

Enrollment	
Early Head Start	444
Pre-K	
Elementary	4,179
Middle School	2,199
High School	3,180
Total Enrollment	10,002

Enrollment K-12 By Ethnicity

Ethnic Group	2019-2020
Bangladeshi	145
Carolinian	858
Caucasian	50
Chamorro	3,534
Chinese	491
Chuukese	579
Filipino	3,114
Japanese	104
Korean	128
Kosraean	15
Marshallese	24
Nepalese	11
Palauan	258
Pohnpeian	164
Russian	11
Samoan	13
Thai	47
Yapese	109
Two or more	258
Other	61
Total	9,991

Ethnic Groups under <10 are not counted in the total.

Enrollment for Special Education

78 Early Childhood Program; 393 total for Elementary; 194 for Middle & Jr. High School; 284 enrolled for High School; and 43 enrolled in Private Schools for a total enrollment of 992 (ages 3-21 from K-12).

Early Intervention, Head Start/Early Head Start, & Kindergarten

Kindergarten is offered at all elementary schools. The CNMI Public School System is sub-grantor of the **Head Start Program** through the US Department of Health and Human Services. There are **sixteen (16) Head Start/Early Head Start Centers** total; thirteen (13) on Saipan, one (1) on Rota, and two (2) on Tinian that serves children ages three to five.

The CNMI Public School System also provides services to infants and toddlers (0-3) through its **Early Intervention Program** which is funded and under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Certified and Non-Certified Education and Degree

During the SY 2019-2020, the CNMI Public School System employed a total of **1,050 employees**. Of this figure, **763 are instructional staff** (e.g. Teachers, Counselors, Librarian, Instructors) and **287 are non-instructional staff** (Teacher Aides, School Administrators, Support Staff).

Personal Education	Highest Level of Education
High School Diploma	356
Associate of Arts/ Associate of Science Degree	37
Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science Degree	345
Master of Arts/ Master of Science Degree	298
Doctorate Degree, Ed.D., J.D., Ph.D.	13
Total	1,050

Senior Exit Survey Class of 2019

The responses below reflects the graduating Class of 2019.

"Immediately after graduation, I plan to pursue..."*	
College	456
Vocational/ Tech/ Trade School	24
Work	285
Apprenticeship	9
Military	147
Other	50
Total	971

*Student allowed more than one choice.

Graduation Rate

Class of 2018	Overall
SY 15-16 Year 1 - Cohort 2019	905
SY 18-19 Total Number of Graduates	708
% of Students from Cohort 2019 who graduated within 4 years*	53%

Graduation & Drop-Out Definition can be found in our SY 2019-2020 Facts & Figures at <https://www.cnmipss.org>.

Source of CNMI Graduate Definition was formerly Policy 620 "Dropout Definition" from the Title 60: Board of Education Chapter 60-20 Public School System Rules & Regulations. Policy 620 had been repealed without specific replacement.

Questions	Yes	No
1. Did you apply to a 2-year or 4-Year College or vocational/tech/trade/school?	232	339
2. Was money a factor in your decision not to apply?	146	196
3. Was your grade point average (GPA) a factor in your decision not to apply?	32	163
4. If you plan to move to the U.S. or another country after high school, do you plan to return to the CNMI?	440	40
5. Have you taken a career pathway inventory during high school?	265	306
6. Has your desired/chosen career path changed since you were a freshman?	191	75
7. Did your high school help you to plan for college or a career after graduation?	461	110
8. Do you feel enough extracurricular opportunities were available to you?	409	162

Compiled: June 2019
Source: Senior Exit Survey Reports by LifeTrack Services, Inc.

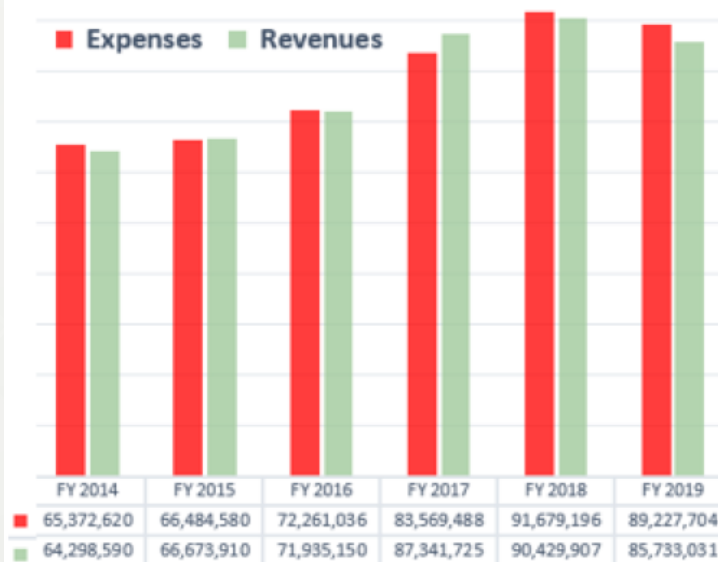
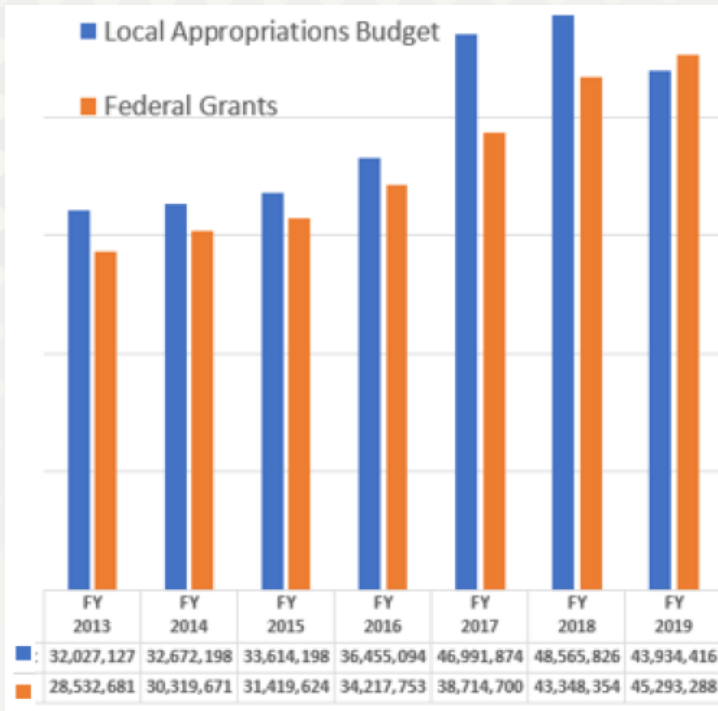


FY 2019 Audit Report



The independent audit was performed by **Burger • Comer • Magliari** – Year Ended September 30, 2019. For a comprehensive report visit <https://www.cnmipss.org>

CNMI PSS FY 2019 Budget (10/1/2018 to 9/30/2019)



Federal Budget 100% Supplemental

As of July 2020, the CNMI PSS is working on a combined **23 federal program grant** budget of \$94,979,414 for FY 20 (October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020).

Please note that each federal grant has very specific purposes and can only be used for the purposes as established by federal law and the federal grant agreements PSS signs with each grantor agency.

A listing of the major grants and brief highlights are as follows:

- The **Education Stabilization Fund** in the amount of 23,205,697 million provides for support for daily classroom sanitation, monitoring of temperature of students and staff and backfilling a big hole in the local budget. It also provides support to both public and private schools as we all work together to address the several challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic poses to school health and safety.
- The **Project Restart Grant** in the amount of \$9.3 million provides PSS with support to replace instructional materials and equipment lost as a result of the destruction caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. The grant provides support to both public and private schools.
- The **Consolidated Grant** (funds 62 FTEs and 38 Title 1 Teachers) from the USDOE in the amount of \$16,992,937 provides direct support to both our public and private schools. Each school receives a direct allocation of \$600/student of federal funds based upon student enrollment. \$6.3 million is allocated to our 20 public schools and \$2,511,132 million to our 14 private schools. In addition the CG provides \$1,939,763 for 35 class size reduction teachers, it provides \$1,212,727 to support Title 1 tutorials from retired PSS master teachers, \$957,307 for Literacy Coaches, \$921,000 for distance education, \$1,325,694 for Assessment, \$753,830 to support Co-Op education that leads to jobs for over 400 students, \$3,476,291 for iPads and carts for student use, \$724,000 for computer, printers, scanners that link every classroom to the school office and to PSS central in an intranet, \$300,000 in support for several student competitions, \$101,000 for AP programs, \$128,000 for publications such as the monthly editions of Students First, and \$470,948 for professional development for teachers and school administrators.
- The **Nutrition Assistance Grant** (funds 9 FTEs and 11 part-time monitors) in the amount of \$16,599,236 provides nutritious school breakfasts and lunches for the 9,825 students enrolled in our public schools, 412 Head Start children, 1,600 children in child care centers and the 1,812 students in our private schools. The school meals program is privatized and all meals are prepared and served by private sector catering companies located on all three islands. The total value of these student meal service contracts is \$14.8 million dollars. This grant also supports a Nutrition Education program in the amount of \$268,000 that supports training of teachers, parents, students and school leaders on how to prepare healthy meals and the importance of 60 minutes of moderate vigorous daily exercise. It also provides \$600,000 for summer feeding program.
- The **MHS CTE Center** at a cost of \$12,000,000 is a two-store Career and Technical Education Center to be built at the old Building T site at Marianas High School.
- The **Special Education Grant** (funds 60 FTEs) (Part B Grant under the IDEA) provides \$5.04 million dollars for SPED and related services to 992 students with disabilities (ages 3-21) that attend our schools from K-12. Part C Grant under the IDEA provides \$476,000 for services to eligible infants and toddlers (0-3 years old).
- The **Head Start Grant** (funds 55 FTEs) in the amount of \$2,611,006 is a comprehensive preschool program that provides half-day education, health, and social service benefits to 462 children and their families.
- The **Early Head Start Grant** (funds 34 FTEs) in the amount of \$993,700 is a comprehensive infants and toddlers pre-school program that provides full-day education, health and social service benefits to 82 children and their families.
- **Rural Development** at a cost of \$2,800,000 will build additional classrooms at Dan Dan Middle School, Oleai Elementary School and Koblerville Elementary School, paving of the JMR Head Start Center parking lot, and additional parking at Koblerville Elementary School.
- **Koblerville New Cafeteria Project** at a cost of \$2,200,000.
- **Project Serve**, a new grant from the USDOE, in the amount of \$1,130,000 pays for the overtime of our Bus Drivers serving students on double-sessions, pays for long-term substitute teachers, and 3 Mental Health Specialists.
- **MAP Grant** in the amount of \$750,000 provides funding to continue the repairs at our schools that began with funding from OIA for the ABC program.
- A couple newer grants are the **CNMI Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant** in the amount of \$554,075 and **Project TASA** in the amount of \$999,980.
- Several **small grants** under **\$500,000** each (e.g. E-Rate Program, PREP grants, School Emergency Grant, JROTC, AmeriCorps, ANA).



OUR OUTLOOK

INNOVATIONS

Instructional Technology & Distance Education (IT&DE)

The crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has stimulated innovation within CNMI PSS. We have seen innovative approaches in support of education and training continuity: from take-home learning packets, to the transition to remote teaching through Blackboard Ultra, etc. Distance learning solutions were developed thanks to quick responses by teachers, staff and administrators. Challenges have highlighted that the promising future of learning, and the accelerated changes in modes of delivering quality education, cannot be separated from the imperative of leaving no one behind. In addition to providing leadership and support as teachers and learners shift to a virtual learning environment, the IT&DE continues to move the CNMI PSS forward with the following innovations:

Student Portal Expansion

To begin career exploration at the earlier grade, IT&DE will promote career exploration courses at the middle school. IT&DE will leverage the power of online learning. Students from public and private schools will have extended learning opportunities to explore a wide array of career pathways. This program will empower our students in the Marianas to chart their course and take a purposeful step toward their goal well before high school.

Young Explorers Program

IT&DE will leverage the power of online learning to allow elementary teachers to provide skill-based, technology-driven content outside the scope of the regular curriculum. This innovative program will build on the success of the Student Portal and Ed Tech Program, allowing our young learners throughout the Marianas access to a world of extended education at their fingertips to shore-up skills, explore interests, and engage in civic service activities.

Digital Skill Curriculum

IT&DE will lead the effort to ensure 21st Century Technology Skills, which are equally as critical to literacy skills in the digital age. The focus on the curricular implementation will be at the middle level. Students throughout the Marianas will be immersed in computer science and digital citizenship concepts.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Produced a clean Audit (for 10 years since SY 2009-2010)
- CNMI PSS received \$23, 205,697 in Education Stabilization Funds to support to both public and private schools and to address the several challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic poses to school health and safety.
- CNMI PSS awarded \$2,561,479.00 from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to build a State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) infrastructure.
- CNMI PSS awarded \$1,000,000 Project TASA Grant to help promote mental health among teachers, students, and their families.
- Training for online teaching, shift to Remote Learning
- Distribution of Chromebooks and Mifis.
- Class of 2020 Parade and Motorcade Drive-Thru Event, Virtual Graduations and Promotions
- Wifi-On-Wheels, Grab and Go Meal Distribution
- School-based Immunization Outreach
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health activities

CHALLENGES

- Overall mental health, health, well being, and safety of students, staff, and teachers
- Fiscal pressures and funding gaps, furloughs, salary cuts
- Educational challenges created by school closures
- Remote teaching and learning challenges
- Student attendance and engagement
- Staff turnover, lack of teachers

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Please contact the office of the Commissioner of Education for more information regarding our **2020 Citizen-Centric Report** at (670) 237-3061.

Prepared by
Office of Accountability, Research & Evaluation (ARE)



A comprehensive report is available in our
SY 2019-2020 Annual Report
or visit <https://www.cnmipssore.org>.

