



# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



# PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

## OUR VISION

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System is a provider of quality education, empowering all individuals to be innovative thinkers and learners.

## Our Mission

**Educating lifelong learners  
to become productive  
citizens of a global society.**

## Strategic Priorities

- *Student Success*
- *Accountable High Performing Systems*
- *High Performing Personnel*
- *Effective and Efficient Operations*
- *Safe and Caring Schools*
- *Communications and Community Relations*

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Andrew L. Orsini  
*Chairperson*

Herman M. Atalig, SGM (Ret.)  
*Vice Chairperson*

Maisie B. Tenorio  
*Secretary / Treasurer*

Gregory P. Borja  
*Member*

Antonio L. Borja  
*Member*

Phyllis Ain  
*Teacher Representative*

Dr. Ronald Snyder  
*Non-Public School Representative*

Jed R. Sta. Theresa  
*Student Representative*

### KEY MANAGEMENT

Alfred B. Ada, Ed.D.  
*Commissioner of Education*

Eric Magofna, M.Ed.  
*Associate Commissioner for Administration Services*

Jackie Quitugua, M.Ed.  
*Senior Director, Office of Curriculum and Instruction*

Yvonne Pangelinan, Ed.D.  
*Senior Director, Office of Student Support and Services*

Rizalina Liwag, Ed.D.  
*Senior Director, Office of Accountability Research and Evaluation*

Arlene Lizama, CPA, CGMA, MBA  
*Finance Director*

Tim Thornburgh  
*Federal Program Director*

Lathania Angui  
*Headstart / Early Headstart Director*

Donna Flores  
*Special Education Director*

Jesse Tenorio  
*State Technology Director*

Bobby Cruz, Ed.D.  
*Instructional Technology and Distance Education Director*

Lucretia B. Deleon Guerrero  
*Human Resource Office Director*

*Celebrating 33 Years of Public Education*

# OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM AT-A-GLANCE



The information below has been extracted from

**SY 2020-2021 Facts & Figures.**

For additional information, please email our Records Management Program Manager, Mrs. Ruth Calvo, from the Office of Accountability, Research, & Evaluation at [ruth.calvo@cnmipss.org](mailto:ruth.calvo@cnmipss.org) or visit [www.cnmipss.org](http://www.cnmipss.org)



A comprehensive report is available in our

**SY 2020-2021 Annual Report**

or visit [www.cnmipss.org](http://www.cnmipss.org)

## Our Schools & Centers

Our Schools & Centers	
Early Intervention	1 center
Early Head Start	6 centers
Head Start	9 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	295
Head Start	
Elementary	3883
Middle School	2292
High School	3170
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>9640</b>

## Enrollment K-12 By Ethnicity

Enrollment	2020-2021
Bangladeshi	174
Bengali	12
Carolinian	548
Caucasian	30
Chamorro	2750
Chinese	399
Chuukese	435
Filipino	2506
Japanese	48
Korean	99
Nepalese	10
Palauan	116
Pohnpeian	96
Thai	17
Yapese	66
Two or More	2145
Not Stated	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>9490</b>

Ethnic Groups under <10 are not counted in total.

## Enrollment for Special Education

The Special Education Program served **978** students, 3 to 21 years old, grades K-12.

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

Kindergarten is offered at all elementary schools. The CNMI Public School System is a sub-grantor of the **Head Start Program** through the US Department of Health and Human Services. There is fifteen (15) **Head Start/ Early Head Start Centers** total.

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

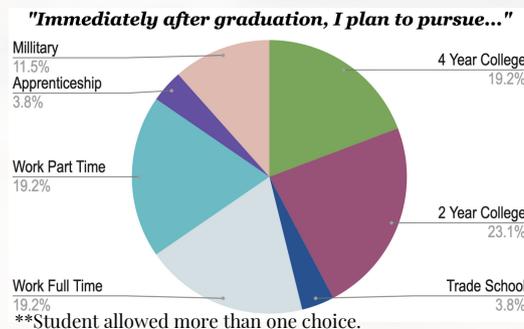
## Certified & Non-Certified Education & Degree

During the SY 2020-2021, the CNMI PSS employed a total of **1052 employees**. Of this figure, **581** are **instructional staff** (e.g. Teachers, Counselors, Librarians) and **471 non-instructional staff** (e.g. Teacher Aides, Administrators, Support Staff).

Personal Education	Highest Level of Education
High School Diploma	339
Associate of Arts/ Associate of Science Degree	56
Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science Degree	246
Master of Arts/ Master of Science Degree	397
Doctorate Degree, Ed.D., J.D., Ph.D.	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1052</b>

## Senior Exit Survey Class of 2021

The responses below reflect the graduating Class of 2021.



## Graduation Rate

Class of 2021	Overall
SY 17-18 - Year 1 Cohort 2021	816
SY 20-21 Total Number of Graduates*	695
% of students from Cohort 2021 who graduated within four years.	<b>88%</b>

\*Does not include early graduates

### Graduation & Drop-Out Definition

can be found in our SY 2020-2021 Facts & Figures at [www.cnmipss.org](http://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.

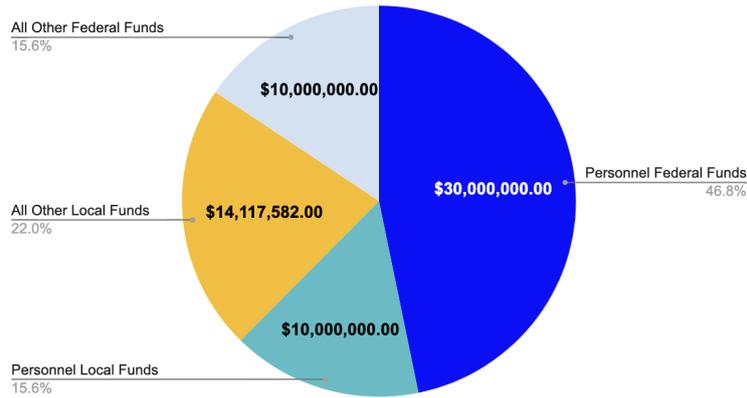
Survey Questions	YES	NO
Did you apply to a two year or four year college/tech/trade school?	117	168
Was money a factor in your decision not to apply?	90	113
Was your grade point average (GPA) a factor in your decision not to apply?	26	177
If you plan to move to the United States or another country after high school, do you plan to return to the CNMI?	191	27
Have you taken a career path inventory in high school?	138	147
Has your desired/chosen career pathway changed since you were a freshman?	194	91
Did your high school help you plan for college or career after graduation?	198	87
Do you feel enough extracurricular opportunities were available to you?	191	94

Compiled May 2021

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



## Department of Finance - FY2021 Budget Allocation



## Federal Budget

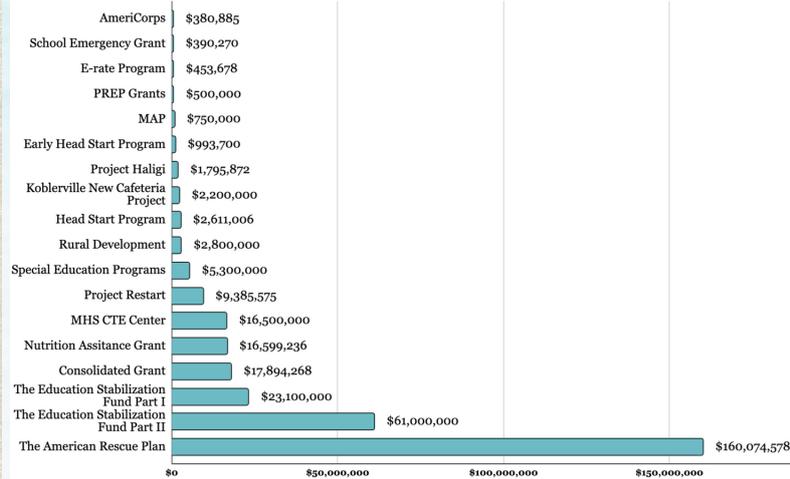
As of January 2021, the CNMI Public School System is working on a combined **28 federal grant** budget of \$245,489,357 for FY 21 (October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021).

Please note that each federal grant has very specific purposes and can only be used for the purposes 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 Part I** provides 23.1 million for PSS to prepare our schools for hybrid learning (online & in-class in small group learning). The grant also provides support for daily classroom sanitization, monitoring students and staff's temperature, and back-filling a big hole in the local budget.
- The **Education Stabilization Fund Part II** provides \$61 million to prepare our schools for hybrid learning (online & in-class in small group learning).
- The **American Rescue Plan (ARP)** provides \$160,074,578 to address the impact of lost instructional time on schools, staff, and students – through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs and addresses the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups. Funds will be used to reopen and sustain schools' safe operation safely, an equitable expanded opportunity for students who need it most, particularly those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Consolidated Grant (funds 62 FTEs and 38 Title 1 teachers)** from the USDOE in the amount of \$17,894,268 provides direct support to 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 Consolidated Grant 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. It provides \$957,307 million for Literacy Coaches. It provides \$921 million for distance education. It provides \$1,325,694 for assessment. It provides \$753,830 to support Co-Op Education that leads to jobs for over 400 students, it provides \$3,476,291 for iPads and carts for student use, \$724,000 for the computer, printers, scanners that link every classroom to the school office and PSS central in an intranet, and provides over \$300,000 in support for our several student competitions, it provides \$ 101,000 for AP programs, it provides \$128 128,000 for publications such as the monthly editions of Students First and \$470,948 for professional development for teachers and school administrators.
- The **Special Education Programs** (funds 63 FTEs) (Part B and C) provide \$5.3 million to provide direct education and related services to the 931 special children that attend our schools.
- **MHS CTE Center**, at the cost of \$16,500,000, is a two-story Career and Technical Education Center to be built at the old Building T site at MHS. Super Typhoon Yutu destroyed building T. This new 50,000 square foot building will provide classrooms and shops for up to 600 students taking courses in Co-Op Education, HVAC, Auto repair, Music, Choir, Theater, Speech, Digital Arts, etc.

## Federal Programs Office Report for SY 2021-2022



- **Our Nutrition Assistance Grant** (funds 9 FTEs and 11 part-time monitors) in the amount of \$16,599,236 provides nutritious school breakfast, 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 enrolled 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. This grant also supports a Nutrition Education in the amount of \$268,000 that supports the training of teachers, parents, students, and school leaders on how to prepare healthy meals and the importance of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous daily physical exercise and it also provides \$600,000 for the summer feeding program.
- **The Head Start Program** (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 Head Start Program federal grant enables the PSS to employ 32 staff (teacher aides and support staff).
- **The Early Head Start Program** (funds 34 FTEs) in \$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. The Early Head Start Program federal grant enables the PSS to employ 20 staff (child care teachers, aides, and support staff).
- **Project Restart** (a special grant from the US Department of Education) at the cost of \$9,385,575 provides \$3.1 million for replacement instructional materials, paid for our utilities from March through September of last fiscal year, provides \$1.5 million for replacement school buses, \$1.6 million for teacher and school leader retention incentives, provides \$700,000 for minor classroom repairs such as air-con repair/replacement, replacement doors, and windows as schools on double-sessions, pays for the electrical and transformer replacement at Kagman Elementary School, and pays for the minor repairs at our private schools as well as replacement instructional materials.
- **Rural Development** at the cost of \$2,800,000 will build additional classrooms at Dandan Middle School, Oleai Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, and paving the JMR Head Start center parking lot additional parking at Koblerville Elementary School.
- **Koblerville New Cafeteria Project** with a cost of \$2,200,000 is scheduled to be completed by September of this year.
- **Project Haligi** at \$1,795,872 is a five-year grant that provides a mental health network for students and/or staff who have experienced loss or trauma. Our Mental Health Specialists provide the healing needed for students and staff to develop resiliency.
- **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.
- **An E-rate Program** in the amount of \$453,678 pays 90% of the cost of our telecommunications.
- **PREP Grants** in the aggregate amount of 500,000 with \$250,000 the formula grant and \$250,000 a competitive grant provided pregnancy prevention programs for our students.
- **School Emergency Grant** in the amount of \$390,270 provides funds to support school safety programs and drills so that students and teachers know exactly where to go in an emergency such as a tsunami, fire, earthquake, active shooter, etc.
- **JROTC**, in the amount of \$347,480, supports character education programs at our five high schools.
- **AmeriCorps**, in the amount of \$380,885, provided after-school tutorial programs for elementary school students through a peer coaching approach by high school students supervised by master teachers.
- **ANA**, in the amount of \$147,755, provides a swimming program for students.



# OUR OUTLOOK



## Facilities Development

The CNMI Public School System through the Facilities Development & Management Office (FDM) coordinates large-scale school projects with designers, contractors, and government agencies. PSS FDM is involved in the construction management of projects, which includes project monitoring, reviewing plans and specifications, preparing cost estimates, and conducting project meetings. Amongst the significant accomplishments for the year include Koblerville Elementary School Cafeteria Completion; Flexible match agreement between CDBG-DR and FEMA reached to cover PSS's 10% share of the disaster recovery; CDBG -DR acceptance of PSS's applications for MHS, TES, WSR, and FMS; Redirection of ABC funds from 10% match back to the fire alarm system for the schools; OIA grant for \$1,000,000 for deferred maintenance; Replacement of ACs at the cafeteria from various schools.

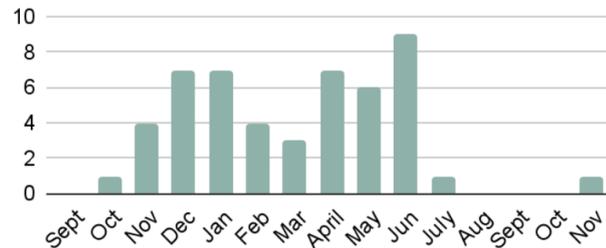
## 2021 Highlights

### High Dosage Tutoring

As part of the goal of the High Dosage Tutoring of CNMI Public School System is to mitigate the students' learning by increasing the number of students who pass their classes and increase the percentage of students who achieve proficiency scores in STAR Reading and STAR Math by at least 3% by SY2022. CNMI Public School System created a support tool-Summer Program-STAR Math and STAR Reading Tracker to measure the impact of High Dosage Tutors on the student summer academic outcome.

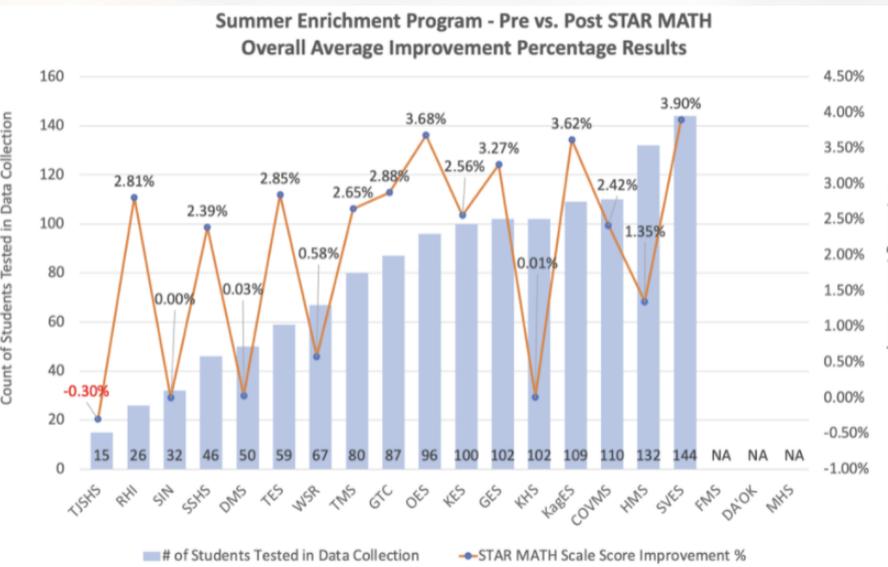
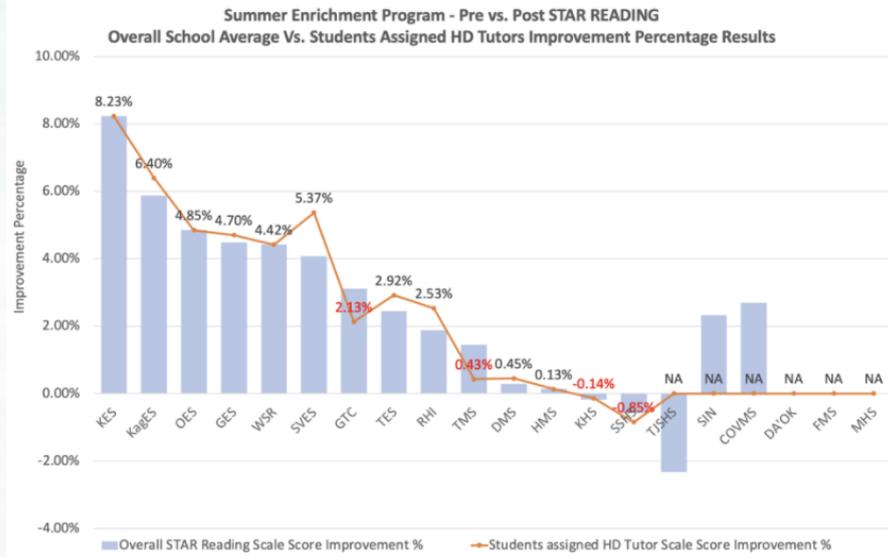
### 45 Presentations and Outreach

1990 student and staff served



### Mental Health Program

In order to ensure the well-being of our students during the pandemic, the CNMI Public School System was able to offer programs that promote mental health through Project Haligi. Three thousand sixty-three individuals have received training in the prevention of mental health promotion. Nine thousand three hundred twenty-five students or 100% of enrolled students were screened for mental health or related intervention using the Pediatric Symptom Checklist. Project HALIGI AWARE aimed to train 27 mental health and related workforce in FY 2020. The number of individuals trained in mental health practices/activities consistent with this goal was 79.



Published  
SEPTEMBER 2021

Please contact the office of the Commissioner of Education for more information regarding our **2021 Citizen-Centric Report** at (670) 237-3601.

Prepared by

Office of Accountability, Research & Evaluation (ARE)



A comprehensive report is available in our  
**SY 2020-2021 Annual Report**  
or visit [www.cnmipss.org](http://www.cnmipss.org)

