



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Lou A. Leon Guerrero  
Governor of Guam  
513 West Marine Corps Drive  
Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Honorable Tina Muña Barnes  
Speaker  
Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Honorable Telena C. Nelson  
Vice-Speaker and Chair  
Committee on Education, Air Transportation, and Statistics, Research, and Planning  
Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature  
173 Aspinall Avenue,  
Suite 202A Ada Plaza Center  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Transmittal of Guam Education Board (GEB) Resolution No. 2020-06 – Relative to Supporting the Recommendations of the District School Readiness Task Force

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero, Speaker Barnes, and Senator Nelson:

*Håfa Adai!* I am transmitting the attached GEB Resolution No. 2020-06 as approved by the GEB in the their regular meeting held on June 30, 2020.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 300-1547.

Senseramente,

**JON J.P. FERNANDEZ**

**Attachments**

cc: Chairwoman, Mayors Council of Guam  
President, Guam Federation of Teachers  
GDOE School Administrators  
Islandwide PTO

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-06**



**Introduced by:**

**Guam Education Board Members**

**RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISTRICT  
SCHOOL READINESS TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, Governor of Guam Lourdes Leon Guerrero declared a public health emergency for the island of Guam due to the potential dangers posed by the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, Governor Leon Guerrero issued Executive Order No. 2020-04 directing the closure of all non-essential government of Guam offices as well as the closure of all public and private schools through March 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 2020-04 also prohibited large gatherings of 50 people or more in a single space, recommended social distancing of at least six feet between individuals, and imposed certain travel restrictions and requirements on incoming and returning travelers to Guam; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2020, Governor Leon Guerrero issued Executive Order No. 2020-07 extending the government closure until April 13, 2020, necessitating the launch of the Guam Department of Education (“GDOE”) distance learning strategy on Monday, March 30, 2020, including the launch of an online resource website; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning April 6, 2020, GDOE began providing weekly lessons for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, and middle and high school teachers prepared to engage students and distribute lessons both online and through hard copies to address those students without access to the internet or computers; and

**WHEREAS**, President Donald Trump issued federal guidance to extend requirements for social distancing until April 30, 2020, and the Government of Guam was also anticipated to extend the public health emergency declaration; and

**WHEREAS**, in anticipation of the further extension of government closures, Superintendent Jon Fernandez recommended that the Guam Education Board authorize the closing of schools for the duration of School Year (SY) 2019-2020, recognizing that attempting to bring back 30,000 students and 4,000 school employees to normal operations would result in increased anxiety and concern regarding the further potential spread of COVID-19 as well as the school system’s ability to provide sufficient protective measures to assure the safety of students and employees; and

**WHEREAS**, in Resolution 2020-03, the Guam Education Board approved the temporary suspension of certain policies for SY2019-2020 and further requested that the Guam Legislature temporarily suspend laws regarding the instructional hour and service learning requirements for GDOE students; and

**WHEREAS**, the 35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature voted to approve Public Law 35-84, which exempted Guam’s public schools from the requirement of one hundred eighty (180) instructional days and Public Law 35-83, which exempted high school students enrolled in SY2019-2020 from the service learning graduation requirement, and these measures were subsequently signed into law by the Governor of Guam; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent established the District School Readiness Task Force (DSRTF) in May 2020 to develop options and recommendations for the reopening of School Year (SY) 2020-2021. The Task Force consists of six committees in the following areas: Operations, Safety,

and Social (Physical) Distancing; Curriculum and Distance Learning; Personnel Management; Social and Emotional Wellness; Community and Public Information; and Budget and Finance; and

**WHEREAS**, the DSRTF has been planning for the safe reopening of schools in SY 2020-2021 through the involvement of key stakeholders and the development of action plans. Stakeholders consulted as part of the planning process include school administrators, teachers, non-instructional staff, student leaders, Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs), the Guam Federation of Teachers, Physicians Advisory Group (PAG), public health experts, and government leaders. Additionally, to engage the community further, parent and student surveys were developed and distributed during the month of June to allow families to provide adequate input regarding the proposed implementation plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the chairpersons of each committee have been meeting regularly with Task Force members to develop reopening plans consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and public health experts; and

**WHEREAS**, the DSRTF has also met weekly with the Guam Education Board Health and Safety Committee, and on June 9, 2020 submitted the final draft of the DSRTF Comprehensive Action Plan to the Superintendent of Education. The plan identified actions needed by each committee to facilitate a smooth reopening of schools this fall. Resources and documents provided to the GEB include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) COVID-19 School Opening Interim Temperature & Symptom Screening Guidelines; (2) COVID-19 Response Employee Handbook; (3) Distance Learning Planning and Implementation Phases; (4) Personnel Standard Operating Procedures; (5) Social and Emotional Wellness fact sheets; (6) School Year 2020-2021 Parent/Guardian Survey; (7) School Year 2020-2021 Student Survey; (8) Communication planning documents; (9) Education Stabilization Fund – State Educational Agency (ESF-SEA) application; and (10) ESF-SEA Grant Award Notification; and

**WHEREAS**, the DSRTF recommended three instructional models for SY 2020-2021 given the CDC health and safety COVID-19 guidelines, executive orders from the Office of the Governor, and input from teachers, administrators, and students, parents, to include: (1) Home Learning: Online Instruction; (2) Home Learning: Hard Copy Curriculum; and (3) Traditional Face-to-Face (using an alternating A-B-C cohort schedule); and

**WHEREAS**, the DSRTF is committed to implementing professional development for school administrators, teachers, non-instructional staff, parents and students and to include training in the areas of curriculum, social and emotional wellness, and safety measures to facilitate a smooth start to the school year; and

**WHEREAS**, to implement these recommendations, the Guam Education Board must temporarily suspend particular board policies including the following:

- Board Policy 346 regarding instructional subjects and time on task for elementary schools
- Board Policy 381 regarding service learning requirements
- Board Policy 401 regarding uniform policy
- Board Policy 411 regarding student attendance
- Board Policy 602 regarding the adoption of textbooks and instructional materials

**WHEREAS**, the DSRTF has addressed all relevant Guam Education Board policies and will continue to make recommendations regarding Board action needed to facilitate a successful school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the DSRTF is committed in the weeks ahead to ensure that the public is aware of the changes necessary to reopen schools safely, to continue the mission of teaching and learning, and to provide a positive social and emotional learning environment for the school community; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Guam Education Board does hereby recognize the continued contributions of the work of the District School Readiness Task Force and the leadership that has been provided. There has been significant progress in the planning and development of action plans in the areas of curriculum and distance learning, safety, health and the social and emotional wellness of students, educators and families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Guam Education Board recognizes the hard work of its school administrators, teachers, staff, Guam Federation of Teachers representatives, parent organizations and students who have engaged in discussions throughout this uncertain time, and

thanks community representatives, such as the Mayors' Council of Guam, for engaging with GDOE leadership regarding distance learning opportunities; and

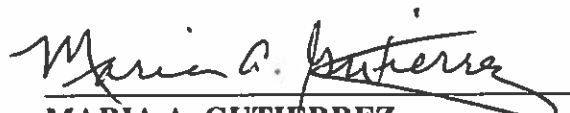
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Guam Education Board recognizes that the COVID-19 health pandemic is a continually evolving situation, and hereby authorizes the Superintendent to implement changes to the DSRTF plan so long as he notifies the Guam Education Board prior to the next scheduled board meeting; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Guam Education Board requests that the 35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature introduce legislation to further suspend the laws relative to the instructional hours and service learning requirements during SY2020-2021, as referenced in 1GCA, Chapter 7, Section 715: Words and Terms Defined: Significance of Words and 17GCA, Chapter 4, Section 4124: Service-Learning Guidelines; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'haga' Guahan*; the Honorable Tina Muna-Barnes, Speaker of the 35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature; the Honorable Telena Nelson, Vice-Speaker of the 35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature and Chairwoman of the Committee on Education; the Honorable Melissa Savares, Mayor of Dededo and Chairwoman of the Mayors Council of Guam; Mr. Timothy Fedenko, President of the Guam Federation of Teachers; all GDOE school administrators; and members of the Islandwide Parent Teacher Organization; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Guam Education Board now approves and is in full support of the DSRTF plans to reopen schools in SY 2020-2021 using the three aforementioned instructional models, and approves the suspension of the aforementioned board policies, in order to address safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 health pandemic.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE GUAM EDUCATION BOARD ON THIS 30th DAY OF JUNE 2020.**

  
MARIA A. GUTIERREZ  
Chairwoman, Guam Education Board

  
JON LP. FERNANDEZ  
Executive Secretary, Guam Education Board