



CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2024



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.

OUR VALUES

- Leadership & Learning
- Engagement
- Accountability
- Diversity
- Efficacy
- Relationships

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

The CNMI 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, & secondary education programs including special programs in early interventions from birth to three years old & children ages three to four in Head Start.



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2024

Citizen Centric Report

P.O. Box 501370 Saipan, MP 96950

670-237-3061 www.cnmipss.org



INSTITUTIONAL AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Enrollment	
Early Head Start	48
Head Start	352
Elementary School	3477
Middle School	1885
High School	3256
Total Enrollment	9018

Enrollment K-12 By Ethnicity	
African American	10
Bangladeshi	223
Bengali	28
Carolinian	820
Caucasian	45
Chamorro	3415
Chinese	383
Chuukese	472
Filipino	2176
Japanese	44
Korean	114
Kosraean	11
Palauan	186
Pohnpeian	114
Thai	23
Yapese	91
Not Stated	430
Other	39
Did not meet N-Size*	64
Total Enrollment	8678

*(American Samoan, Cambodian, Canadian, Fijian, German, Hispanic, Indian, Kiribatian, Mortlockese, Nepalese, Pakistani, Pinglapeese, Russian, Tongan)

ENROLLMENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Special Education Program served 1083 students from birth to 21 years old, in early learning intervention programs to K-12.

Our Schools & Centers	
Early Intervention	1
Early Head Start / Head start	16
Elementary (K-5)	7
Elementary (K-6)	2
Middle Schools	6
Jr. Sr. High Schools	1
High Schools (9-12)	4

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 & Human Services.

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

Distance Education Enrollment			
Public/Private Schools	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
CNMI Public Schools	578	912	564
Participating Private Schools	27	40	27

Information shown on this page has been extracted from **SY2023-2024 Facts & Figures**. For additional information, please contact the Office of Accountability, Research, & Evaluation or visit: www.cnmipss.org

Graduation Rate	
SY 19-20 Year 1 - Cohort 2023	696
SY 2022-2023 Total Number of Graduates	721
Percentage of Students from Cohort 2019 who graduated within 4 years* in 2023	71%

*Percentage does not include early graduates.

Senior Exit Survey: Class of 2024		
Question	Yes	No
Did you apply to a two year or four year college/tech/trade school?	165	342
Was money a factor in your decision not to apply?	145	161
Was your GPA a factor in your decision?	56	262
If you plan to move to the United States or another country after high school, do you plan to return to the CNMI?	339	55
Have you taken a career path inventory in high school?	237	270
Has your desired/chosen pathway changed since you were a freshman?	346	161
Did your high school help you plan for college or a career after graduation?	379	128
Do you feel enough extracurricular opportunities were available to you?	404	103

*Source: Senior Exit Survey Reports by Lifetrack Services, Inc.

CERTIFIED & NON-CERTIFIED EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION & DEGREE

During the SY 2023-2024, the CNMI PSS employed a total of **1,211** employees. Of the total, **600** are instructional staff (e.g., teachers, counselors, librarians), and **611** are non-instructional staff (e.g., teacher aids, administrators, support staff). In addition, PSS ended the year with 174 High Dosage Tutor Support.

PSS Employee Highest Level of Education	
Level	Total
High School Diploma	372
Associate Arts/Associate of Science Degree	127
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science Degree	406
Master of Arts/Master of Science Degree	317
Doctorate Degree, Ed.D, J.D., Ph.D	25
Other Trades or Specialized Certification	27

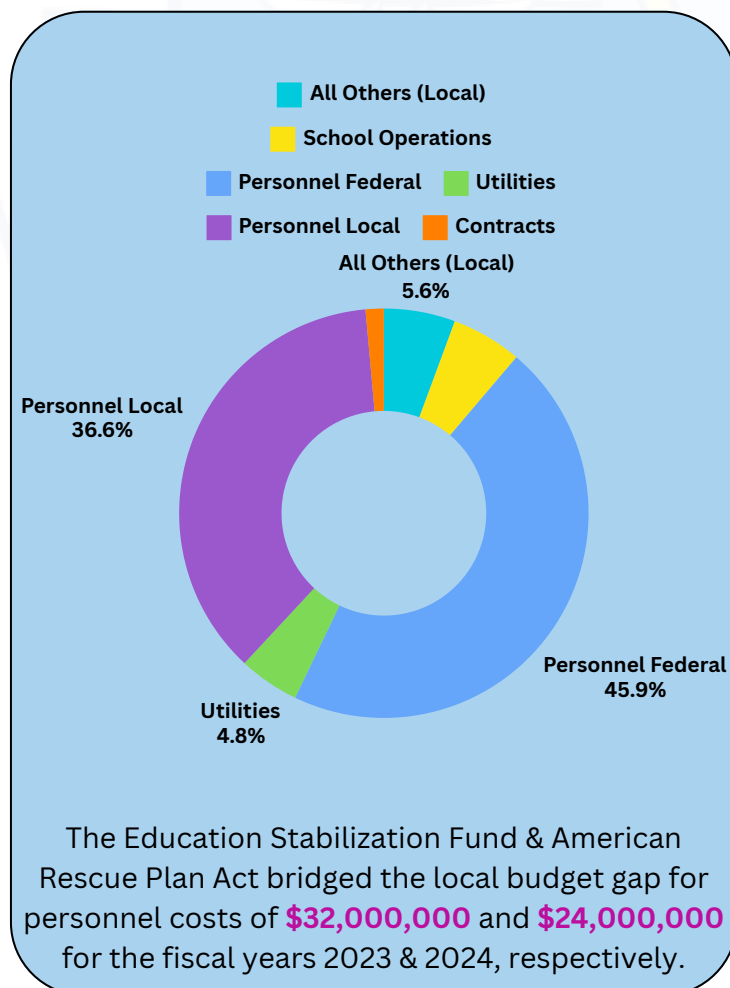
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The American Rescue Plan (ARP), with a substantial grant of \$160 million and a four-year expenditure timeline ending on September 30, 2024, represents a pivotal investment in our education system. This funding has supported a wide range of initiatives, including distance education, technological accessibility, and the enhancement of assessments. It has also provided critical resources for national competitions and professional development for educators and administrators, aimed at refining their skills to address the diverse needs of our student population.

The ARP has enabled the Public School System (PSS) to make transformative hires, such as additional teachers, English Language Learner (ELL) instructors, and, for the first time in three decades, school nurses and health monitors. These efforts have been complemented by innovative measures to mitigate the learning loss experienced during the pandemic, such as the introduction of High Dosage Tutors—college students offering targeted academic support in subjects like reading and math.

The grant has also provided students with essential tools, including laptops and internet connectivity, and addressed long-standing infrastructural needs, such as the replacement of classroom furniture for the first time in 44 years and the acquisition of a fleet of new school buses and vans to facilitate after-school sports and extracurricular activities. Mental health programs, focusing on counseling and coping skills, have been expanded to support students' well-being.

Most critically, the ARP has allowed PSS to stabilize its financial standing by filling a significant gap in the local budget. Despite an annual personnel cost of \$40 million, PSS has only received \$19 million, \$24 million, and \$25 million over the past three years—far short of the required \$45 million annually for personnel and other operational needs. The ARP has thus been instrumental in bridging this financial shortfall, ensuring the continuation of vital services and programs.



Other Major Federal Grants:

- Nutrition Assistance Grant
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- USDA Meal Supplemental Program
- Special Education Programs (Part B and C)
- Head Start / Early Head Start Program
- Project Haligi
- Project Minetgot
- Project Higai
- Statewide Longitudinal Data System
- State PREP grant
- Abstinence Education SRAE
- AmeriCorps
- MAP grant
- Kagman Immersion Language Project
- Striving Readers
- Stronger Connections
- MHS CTE

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

HIGHLIGHTS

- Under the Instructional Technology & Distance Education, 1,775 participants attended 32 professional development and outreach activities. The top-requested professional development sessions were "Artificial Intelligence in Education," "Cyberbullying," and "Digital Escape Room to Enhance Critical Thinking."
- State Systemic Implementation Plan (SSIP) - FFY 2020-2025 By June 30, 2026, at least 39% of 3rd-grade students with an IEP in the elementary schools will perform at or above reading proficiency against grade level and alternate academic achievement.
- Under the Cooperative Education & Training Program, approximately 80% of our students opted to pursue training in the private sector, with the last 20% opting to work for various government agencies on all three islands.
- The Early Warning System (EWS) online platform saw a major achievement in expanding and increasing usage across all schools. The platform recorded 529 log-ins across nine elementary schools, leading to the identification of 2,899 at-risk students. As a result, more than 1,500 interventions were provided to students flagged by the EWS, enabling schools to intervene early and provide much-needed support to those most at risk. In January 2024, the EWS was scaled up to include grades 6-12, providing middle and high school educators with similar data-driven capabilities.
- Construction of the new modular classrooms at Admiral H.G. Hopwood Middle School is now underway. These state-of-the-art facilities will offer students and staff an enhanced and more comfortable learning environment, fostering improved educational experiences for all.
- Marianas High School has graduated the largest graduating class in CNMI history this school year, with 375 Mighty Dolphins.

CHALLENGES

- Over the 2023-2024 school year, school counselors faced many challenges. There were a few student deaths, suicides, school shooter/bomb threat alerts, and the death of a teacher. School counselors were the first responders in these situations and made appropriate referrals when needed.
- Incarcerated students needed more basic school materials like notebooks and other school utensils. Truancy is still one of the biggest challenges students transitioning back to school face.
- This year, the PSS High Dosage Tutors grant cycle has ended. This represents a significant setback for the system, as the tutors provided indispensable support to our schools.
- A pervasive issue confronting most of schools is the rise in student vaping. Despite numerous warnings and the organization of student-parent conferences, the problem persists. The challenge lies in the difficulty of detecting students in the act, compounded by the increasingly discreet design of vaping devices, which often resemble ordinary items such as ink pens, making identification even more complex.



2023-2024 State Level "Of the Years"

**CNMI PSS State
Teacher of the Year**
Roque Indalecio
Marianas High School

**CNMI PSS State
Counselor of the Year**
Jove Jenn Taman
*Saipan Southern High
School*

**CNMI PSS State
Teacher Aid of the Year**
Vincente Cabrera
Da'ok Academy

**CNMI PSS State
Administrative Staff of the
Year**
Josie Mikel
*William S. Reyes
Elementary School*

**CNMI PSS State
Instructor of the Year**
John Pineda
Kagman High School

**CNMI PSS State
Librarian of the Year**
Natalie Hill Bayer
Marianas High School

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Commissioner of Education for more
information regarding the PSS
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