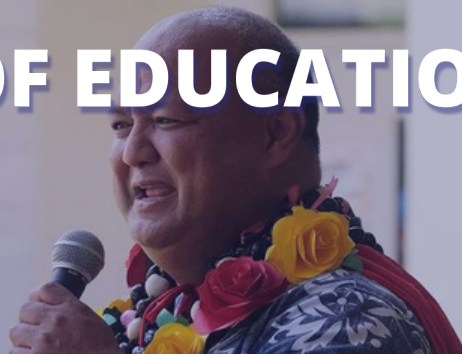


GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021

OCTOBER 1, 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



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WHO ARE WE?

The Guam Department of Education (GDOE, Department) is a semi-autonomous agency within the Government of Guam (GovGuam) and is primarily funded through the GovGuam General Fund. The GDOE is a single unified school district that serves just under 30,000 students (from Kindergarten to Grade 12). There are 26 elementary schools, 8 middle schools, 6 high schools, and 1 alternative school for a total of 41 schools. Additionally, the Department administers Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K), and GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) at select elementary schools.

The GDOE is governed by policies established by the Guam Education Board (GEB, Board) composed of elected and appointed board members. The Board appoints the Superintendent of Education who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Department.

All 41 schools are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and uses standards-based or criterion-referenced testing to assess student progress.

GDOE MISSION

Our educational community:

Prepares all students for life by ensuring that all students, regardless of gender, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, language proficiency, special need, religion or beliefs, receive high quality education that will prepare them for post-secondary education, the workforce, and civic engagement.

Promotes excellence by adopting and implementing high standards and expectations for all students and employees with everyone performing at their best at all times. This philosophy is grounded in the belief that all students can learn at high levels and all employees can provide the highest quality of service.

Provides support by ensuring that our Department has a framework to identify and address the academic, social, and emotional needs of our diverse student population through a support system that is comprehensive and timely with an unwavering focus and relentless commitment to the success of each and every student.

VISION

To educate all students to be **responsible, respectful, and ready for life.**

GDOE GRADUATE OUTCOMES

All students will be technologically literate, effective communicators, academically successful, and model citizens.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

1. Collaborative Leadership
2. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
3. Family & Community Engagement
4. Student Behavior, Discipline, and Safety
5. Facilities and Maintenance
6. Finance and Administrative Services
7. Data and Accountability

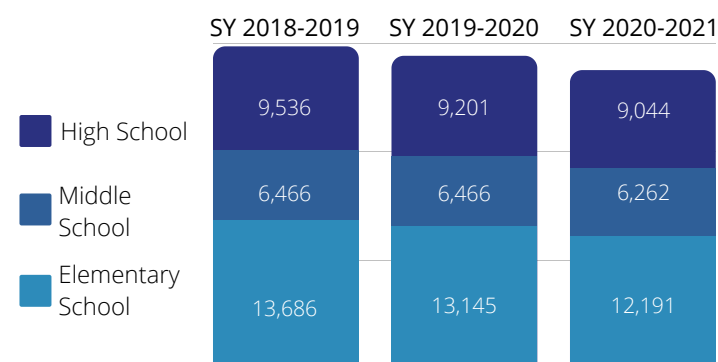
GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

- Chairman:** Mark B. Mendiola
- Vice-Chair:** Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada
- Members:** Maria A. Gutierrez
Lourdes M. Benavente
Robert A. Crisostomo
Peter Alexcis D. Ada
Dr. Ron L. McNinch
Karlyn R.C.G. Borja
Felicitas B. Angel

Ex-Officio:

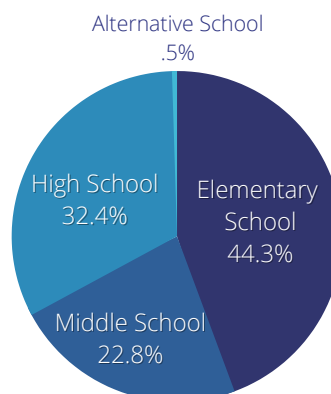
- GFT Rep:** Timothy Fedenko
- Mayor Rep:** Melissa B. Savares
- IBOGS Rep:** Sophie Nochefranca

GDOE STUDENT ENROLLMENT



From SY 18-19, total enrollment decreased by 2,183 or 7.4% Student enrollment has decreased within the past 3 school years. From SY 19-20, total enrollment decreased by 1,315 or 4.6%.

SY 2020-2021 GDOE Student Population



GDOE LEADERSHIP

Jon J.P. Fernandez
Superintendent

Franklin J.T. Cooper-Nurse
(Acting) Deputy Superintendent
Finance & Administrative Services

Joseph L.M. Sanchez
Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum & Instructional Improvement

Erika S. Cruz
Deputy Superintendent
(Acting) Educational Support & Community
Learning, Assessment & Accountability

For more information, visit our website at www.gdoe.net



INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE

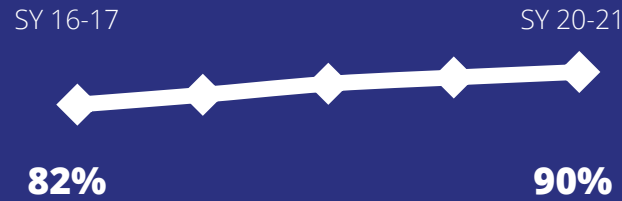
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GRADUATION RATE



The GDOE graduation rate has steadily increased to 90.3% in SY 2020-2021. This reflects an 8% increase in five years. The graduation rate of 90.3% is ten percentage points higher than the GDOE Strategic Plan target of 80%.

School Year 2020 - 2021 Models of Learning

The transition back to face-to-face instruction was assessed through key observations from public health data related to COVID-19 risks. The Superintendent reactivated the District School Readiness Task Force as GDOE reopened schools with consideration of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, and the health data and experiences of school districts across the nation. The task force focused on ensuring schools have the necessary protective equipment and supplies, input from stakeholders, and options for phasing students back to school facilities based on different grade levels, school levels or groups who may benefit from returning to school.



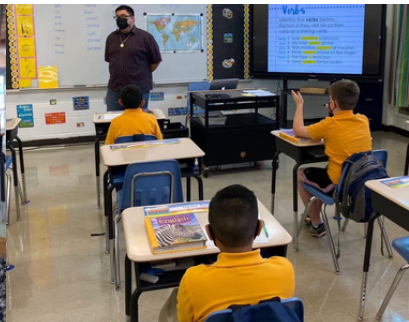
Online Instruction



Hard-Copy Instruction



Face-to-face Instruction



All GDOE Schools Accredited by WASC

In May 2021, all 41 of the GDOE schools achieved accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for WASC. This makes GDOE the first school district in the nation to accredit all schools. In addition to all schools being accredited, GDOE became the first district in 2015 to receive a WASC district-level accreditation.

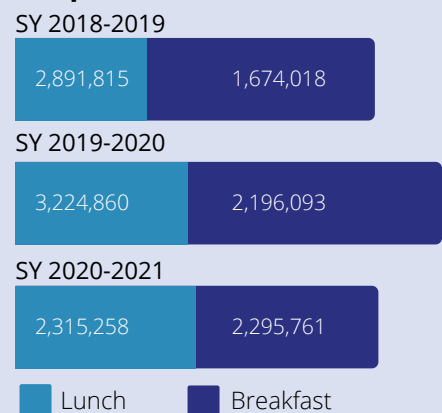


National School Lunch & Breakfast Programs

For SY 20-21, all 41 GDOE cafeterias opted for the Child Nutrition Programs' Community Eligibility Provision. This program provides school breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students in qualified school districts that meet the low income criteria specified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In the chart presented to the right, total meals served in SY 20-21 decreased by 810 thousand (K), compared to SY 19-20. In SY 20-21, there was an overall decrease of 45K meals from SY 18-19.

Comparison of Meals Served



Youth Employment Internship Program

GDOE and the Department of Youth Affairs hosted the 2021 Youth Employment Internship Program between June 21 and August 13, 2021. The program provided 669 of the island's youth opportunities for positive development and valuable workforce experience needed to become responsible, productive, and contributing members of society. This \$1.3 million (M) program was administered by GDOE Federal Programs Division/Grants Office and funded by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) American Rescue Plan (ARP).



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



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Revenue and Contributions (thousands)

Revenues	FY 2019	FY 2020 (Restated)	FY 2021	% Change
Appropriations	\$ 251,831	\$ 248,338	\$ 230,346	(7.2%)
Federal Grants & Contributions	61,713	71,096	115,869	63%
Contributions from Component Units	801	450	450	0.0%
Cafeteria Sales	6	3	0.19	(94%)
Fees & Other Program Receipts	639	2,034	410	(79.9%)
TOTAL REVENUES & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 314,990	\$ 321,921	\$ 347,075	7.8%

Total revenues **increased** by \$25.2M or 7.8% from FY 20. The increase was largely due to a \$44.8M increase in federal grant funding, but was offset by a \$18M decrease in local appropriations. Revenues exhibit a \$32M or 10.2% overall increase from FY 19.

Expenditures (thousands)

Expenditures	FY 2019	FY 2020 (Restated)	FY 2021	% Change
Elementary Education	\$ 74,330	\$ 74,586	\$ 73,227	(1.8%)
Secondary Education	85,797	85,235	85,687	0.5%
Direct Student Support	72,585	83,850	119,510	42.5%
General Administration	38,388	35,170	33,902	(3.6%)
Retiree Healthcare Benefits	11,539	10,824	11,308	4.5%
Lease Payments	27,014	31,087	23,070	(25.8%)
Charter Schools	9,040	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 318,694	\$ 320,753	\$ 346,704	8.1%

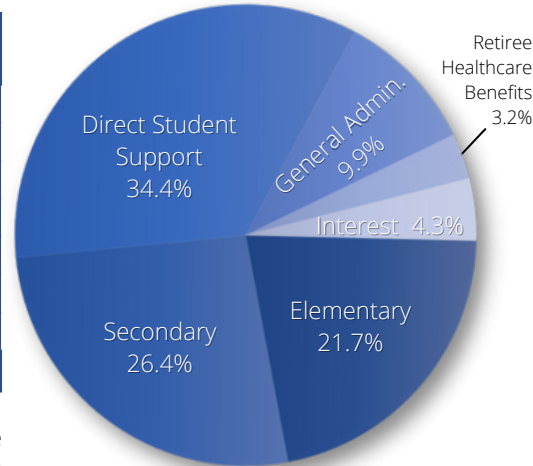
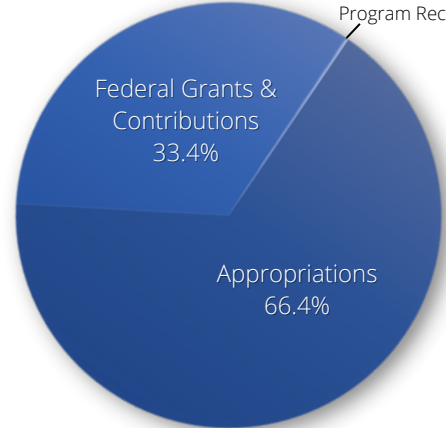
Total expenditures **increased** by \$25.9M or 8.1% from FY 20. The increase was largely due to a \$36M increase in direct student support and a \$484K increase in retiree healthcare benefits and were offset by decreases of \$8M in lease payments, \$1.3M in elementary education, and \$1.3M in general administration. Expenditures exhibit a \$28M or 8.8% overall increase from FY 19.

Federal Grant Awards (thousands)

Federal Grantors and Grants	FY 2020 (Restated)	FY 2021	% Change
U.S. Department of Education	\$ 48,257	\$ 52,971	9.7%
U.S. Department of Agriculture	13,353	15,290	14.5%
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services	3,975	4,020	1.1%
U.S. Department of Interior	2,980	2,671	(10.4%)
COVID-19 Impact Aid:			
American Rescue Plan (ARP), Education Stabilization Fund (ESF I & II)	45,439	401,778	784%
TOTAL GRANT AWARDS	\$ 114,004	\$ 476,730	318%

Total grant awards for FY 2021 increased by a substantial \$362M from FY 2020, mainly attributed to the ARP & ESF. The ARP impact aid awarded to GDOE to focus on helping students return safely to in-person instruction, maximize instructional time, and address learning loss. In addition, ESF was awarded to GDOE to address the immediate safety needs of students and employees as well as to support a shift to distance learning. These additional funds are intended to prioritize the preparation of schools to reopen, meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of students, and expand the use of technology.

Contributions from Component Units,
Cafeteria Sales, & Fees & Other
Program Receipts
0.2%



SELECT FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2021

- GDOE once again received less cash than appropriated in FY 21, resulting in a cash shortfall of \$2.1M.
- The costs of several critical contracts and services netted an overall decrease of \$2M in FY 21. This decrease is largely due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, subsequent temporary closure of schools in SY 20-21, and the suspension of face-to-face classroom instruction in the beginning of the school year.



GDOE received an unmodified opinion from its independent auditors, Deloitte & Touche, LLP. FY 2021 marked the 9th consecutive year GDOE received clean opinions on its financial statements and compliance with major federal programs.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

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High-Risk Status

GDOE has been considered a high-risk recipient of federal education dollars since 2003. Alvarez & Marsal, the third-party fiduciary agent (TPFA), has been overseeing GDOE's management of federal education grant funding since 2010. Representatives from the ED and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's Rural, Insular, and Native Achievement Programs, along with risk management officials conducted an on-site visit in May 2022 to validate several items in GDOE's Reconsideration Evaluation Plan, which included property management, internal controls, employee timetracking, and other areas.

ED's assessment of their recent on-site visit resulted in the removal of 13 of the 21 responsibilities required of GDOE and 18 of the 22 responsibilities of the TPFA. ED committed to working with GDOE to determine whether TPFA would be required past October, but there appears to be more of an increased focus on transitioning GDOE away from its TPFA.

Superintendent Stepping Down

GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez has submitted his resignation and will step down from his position on July 15, 2022. Superintendent Fernandez served for 10 years at GDOE, the longest-serving superintendent in the Department's history, and the longest currently serving Chief State School Officer in the nation. "As I complete my tenth year of service at the helm of the Guam Department of Education ... I also believe that the time must come for new leadership to build upon the progress made and to take the department to the next level of achievement and improvement," he wrote in his resignation letter.

Budgetary Challenges

GDOE FY 2022 appropriations totaled \$214.4M, a 2% or \$4M overall decrease over FY 2021 appropriation levels. Since FY 2018, GDOE has experienced a steady decline in local appropriations as well as cash shortfalls. FY 2022 appropriations are \$75.6M less than the Department's reduced \$290M budget request, after the maximization of federal funding and \$45M less than what the Guam Education Board (GEB) determined was needed to operate current services. This reduction in operations funding further compounds a persistent decline in annual appropriations along with having to absorb perennial cash shortfalls against GDOE's previous fiscal years' appropriations, which significantly compromises the department's ability to sustain its operations. GEB Resolution No. 2021-10 recognized the urgency to address these shortfalls and the need for immediate austerity measures and budgetary cuts including a cross-leveling of all staffing, a hiring freeze, reducing the scale and scope of essential contracts and services, and further maximization of federal funding.

Learning Loss

Learning loss is an issue many school districts across the nation are struggling with. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted classroom instruction and assessments worldwide. To address the disruption of instruction, GDOE is drafting a plan to include strategies to maximize the quality of classroom education and support accelerated learning. For SY 20-21, 24 instructional days were lost.

GDOE School Facility Master Plan

The GDOE School Facility Master Plan was completed with funding and support from the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and HHF Planners. This plan will be used as a guide for investing approximately \$100M in ARP funds to address the much-needed maintenance and modernization needs throughout Guam's public school system.

This plan gives GDOE the opportunity to leverage ARP funds to support identified priorities which include roofing repairs, canopy repairs, restroom renovations, HVAC improvements, and other initiatives.

SSHS Renovation

The design for the new Simon Sanchez High School is 90% complete. The planning and construction of the school was hit by multiple delays including procurement battles, the COVID-19 pandemic, and environmental issues. The new facility will address the needs of SSHS students and the current site's issues related to transportation and infrastructure. After completion of the design phase, the next steps for GDOE would be to procure for the construction and financing of the facility. GDOE expects completion of the new SSHS campus in 2024.

Educator Pay Plan

Effective May 23, 2022, under the recommendations of the Department of Administration, the Educator Pay Plan includes a 20% salary increase for teachers and an additional differential of 15% for Principals and 10% for Assistant Principals. Superintendent Jon Fernandez stated, "this pay increase will do a lot to improve our recruitment and retention of our teachers and administrators and that's important to make sure the department is in good hands going forward for the next couple of years".

GDOE Strategic Plan

In April 2022, the Guam Education Board adopted the GDOE 5 Year Strategic Plan - *I Chalån-ta Mo'na*. Over the past year, the GEB and the GDOE have been developing the strategic plan with the input and support of stakeholders focusing on the strategic priorities of leadership, curriculum & instruction, parent engagement, student discipline and safety, facilities and maintenance, finance and administrative services, data and accountability.



Scan QR code for Strategic Plan

Smarter Balanced Testing



In October 2021, the GEB unanimously adopted Smarter Balanced as the Department's district-wide assessment tool to gauge student proficiency in core subject areas. The assessment replaces the ACT Aspire assessment tool, which after six years of use in GDOE public schools, was discontinued by the ED in SY 20-21. The Smarter Balanced assessment tests college and career readiness skills in the subjects of English, language arts, and math and is recognized as a more rigorous set of assessments that require higher level thinking skills, problem solving, and real-world application of knowledge and skills.

We want to hear from you!

Was this report helpful? What other information would you like to see in this report?

Guam Department of Education

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