

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-01



Introduced by:

Guam Education Board Members

**RELATIVE TO ADOPTING THE SPENDING PRIORITIES AND COST CUTTING MEASURES FOR
THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

WHEREAS, the Guam Education Board uses the "Every Child is Entitled to an Adequate Education Act" to form the basis of the FY 2026 budget; and on January 21, 2025 the Guam Education Board (GEB) approved and adopted the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) FY 2026 budget request (Resolution 2025-01) in the amount of Three Hundred Six Million Three Hundred Forty-five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$306,345,817) and transmitted the budget to I Mina'Trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan; and

WHEREAS, Vetoed Bill 44-38 (COR), An Act Making Appropriations for the Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of the Government of Guam for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2026, Making Other Appropriations, and Establishing Miscellaneous and Administrative Provisions, was reconsidered by I Liheslaturan Guåhan and after such consideration, did agree, on the 29th day of September, 2025, to pass said bill, notwithstanding the objections of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, becoming Public Law 38-60.

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, the General Appropriations Act of 2026, appropriates the sum of Two Hundred Sixty-six Million Two Hundred Ninety-one Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-two Dollars (\$266,291,272) for GDOE operations for FY 2026, and an additional sum of Twenty-six Million Six Hundred Eighty-eight Thousand Twenty-eight Dollars (\$26,688,028) for debt service and lease payments for John F. Kennedy High School, schools constructed by the Guam Education Financing Foundation, the Okkodo High School Expansion, Tiyan High School and GDOE Central Offices; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter II Part I §2 allocates \$513,824 from within GDOE's FY 2026 General Fund Operations Fund for the CHamoru Studies Division; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter II Part I §3 allocates \$343,564 from within GDOE's FY 2026 appropriation from the Limited Gaming Fund pursuant to §5204(d)(3) of Chapter 5, 11 GCA relative to repairs, renovation, and construction of sports facilities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter II Part I § 4(a) and 4(b) appropriate \$891,754 from the Healthy Futures Fund, allocating \$614,165 for Interscholastic Sports and \$277,589 for Health and Physical Education Activities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter II Part I §5 and 15 appropriate \$40,000 and \$385,022 from within GDOE's FY 2026 Guam Educational Facilities Fund appropriation, respectively, to provide Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation Services and grounds maintenance to all public schools; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter II Part I §16 appropriates \$25,000 from within GDOE's FY 2026 General Fund appropriation for Menstrual Hygiene and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter II Part I §17 appropriates \$10,000,000 from within GDOE's FY 2026 General Fund appropriation for school facilities maintenance, school facilities maintenance staff, and repairs; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter II Part I §19 reappropriates \$481,578 from within GDOE's FY 2026 General Fund appropriation for the development, localization, production, reproduction, and/or purchase of textbooks, instructional materials, curriculum guides, and/or other print, digital, and audio resources to be determined and approved by the Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter XI §12 allocates \$1,200,000 from within GDOE's FY 2026 appropriations to fund *Y Kuentan Salappe' Prinsepat* as authorized in 17 GCA 10 without indicating a specific funding source, and the Department has identified it shall be funded from the General Fund appropriation in its Spending Priorities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60, Chapter II Part I §13 exempts GDOE from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research allotment release control (§1303, Article 3, Chapter 1, 5 GCA), and requires GDOE to transmit a drawdown schedule, detailed by fund, to the Director of Administration and the Speaker of I Liheslaturan Guåhan; and §14 provides to the Superintendent budgetary transfer authority in appropriations made to GDOE; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 38-60 appropriates Two Hundred Sixty-six Million Two Hundred Ninety-one Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-two Dollars, which is Forty Million Fifty-four Thousand Five Hundred Forty-five Dollars (\$40,054,545) less than GDOE's Three Hundred Six Million Three Hundred Forty-five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen Dollar (\$306,345,817) adjusted budget request as approved by the GEB; and

WHEREAS, the GEB is concerned the FY 2026 reduction in operations funding compounds a persistent trend of annual budgetary cuts along with having to absorb perennial cash shortfalls (most notably due to shortfalls in projected GEFF collections) against GDOE's previous fiscal years' appropriation, which significantly compromises the department's ability to operate at baseline levels; and;

WHEREAS, the GEB recognizes the urgency to address the projected \$40,054,545 shortfall based on the FY 2026 authorized funding level of Two Hundred Sixty-six Million Two Hundred Ninety-one Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-two Dollars (\$266,291,272), and that it will require immediate austerity measures and budgetary cuts including a cross-leveling of all staffing to reduce personnel, a hiring freeze, freezing detailed appointments and use of overtime; scaling back and reducing the costs of locally funded programs/activities, reducing the scale and scope of essential contracts and services; re-consideration of school bell schedules to realize cost savings; further maximizing and re-programming federal funding to supplement the needs of students, teachers and classroom instruction to alleviate local cash pressures; and requesting the Legislature for a supplemental budget to GDOE appropriations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 17 GCA §3112(17) the Guam Education Board continues to utilize the 14 points of the Every Child is Entitled to an Adequate Education Act as a basis for spending priorities; and has determined prioritization of operations and such spending shall be in the areas of curriculum, safety, and facilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to 17 GCA §3112(17) the Guam Education Board does hereby approve the spending priorities, in the amount of \$266,291,272.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guam Education Board fully supports Public Law 28-45, §13, which states: "I Liheslaturan Guåhan shall annually appropriate from the General Fund or any other funds determined to be appropriate by I Liheslaturan Guåhan to the Guam Department of Education all amounts necessary to provide an adequate public educational system as required by §29(b) of the Organic Act, as amended, and to that end provide an adequate Public Education for all Public School students as those terms are defined in 1 GCA §715."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board hereby directs the Superintendent to utilize the approved spending priority in creating individual school and division budgets centered on curriculum, safety, and facilities for FY 2026; and to exert transfer authority to meet and prioritize the funding needs of GDOE's school operations to adequately provide 180 days of instruction during the school year pursuant to 1 GCA §715; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the GEB hereby authorizes the Superintendent to implement austerity measures to reduce and contain costs of GDOE locally funded programs, activities, and operations, including a hiring freeze on all locally funded positions, with the exception of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and Teacher (instructional) positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the GEB commits to meeting the requirements of the Agreement between the Guam Federation of Teachers Local 1581 AFT/AFL-CIO and the Guam Education Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the GEB directs the Superintendent to begin re-negotiations with the Guam Federation of Teachers Local 1581 AFT / AFL-CIO to revise school manpower requirements set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) so that it is more aligned with and conforming to GDOE's FY26 budgetary limitations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the GEB directs the Superintendent to prioritize (1) the adherence to the CBA and therefore restricts all positions to fulfill the requirements of the CBA before any other hiring, including those due to retirements and resignations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the GEB acknowledges that a new Superintendent has been selected and is expected to assume the position on January 1st, 2026. The new Superintendent must be afforded the opportunity

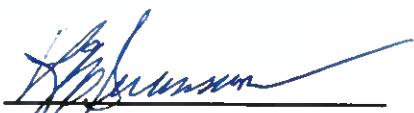
and flexibility to determine the vision for the GDOE's operations. Therefore, the new Superintendent shall review the Spending Priorities adopted under this resolution and, if, upon that review, determines that revisions are needed to align Department priorities with their direction, submit to the Board a revised Spending Priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Speaker Frank Blas Jr., I Mina'Trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan, the Honorable Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman of the Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature Committee on Finance and Government Operations, the Honorable Vincent Anthony V. Borja, Chairman of the Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting, the Honorable Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, I Maga'hågan Guåhan, and all schools.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED THIS 25th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025



ANGEL R. SABLAN
Chairman, Guam Education Board



K. ERIK SWANSON, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary