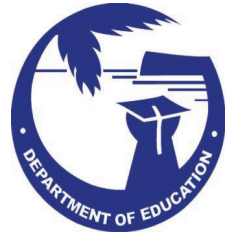




# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

www.gdoe.net  
501 Mariner Avenue  
Barrigada, Guam 96913  
Telephone: (671) 300-1547/1536 • Fax: (671) 472-5003  
Email: keswanson@gdoe.net



**K. ERIK SWANSON, PH.D.**  
Superintendent of Education

DATE. March 31, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Guam Education Board

FROM: K. Erik Swanson, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **TRAVEL REPORT** – CCSSO Legislative Conference

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai!* Below are the responses to the Travel Narrative questions.

**1. For each day, describe your participation in the conference. What activities did you participate in or attend?**

Date	Session Title(s), Session Time, Presenter Name(s) & Summary of Session
March 25	Visited the offices of Delegate James Moylan. Conducted an interview with senior staff member as Delegate Moylan had returned to Guam to coordinate visit with Sec Def. Discussions went in depth with regard to the appeal letter we presented to Delegate Moylan regarding implementation of the pay and reimburse change for ARP and ESF funds.
March 26	<p>Chief's Only Breakfast meeting. State of the State discussions with other chiefs. Multiple topics regarding shifts in leadership and priorities.</p> <p>Chief's only working lunch. Opportunity to network. I spent the bulk of this time discussing parallel issues with the teams from CNMI and American Samoa. Note that both agencies sent their Chief and deputy teams as did most states. CNMI used CG funds to support team travel. We should consider a similar option.</p> <p>Noon – 3 PM Math Summit Presentations. Guam has low math performance much the same as the rest of the country. Examples of successful programs were presented from Alabama and Tennessee. Work was based on information gathered in 2008 Math Study that had not been acted on. Work centered on alignment of all segments of the school and curriculum with assessments and pushing students to higher level math rather than remediation. "You cannot remediate yourself out of the bottom". Other programs have designed PD into push in support and coaching based on the standards being addressed. LEAs need to training teachers and SEAs need</p>

<p><b>March 27</b></p>	<p>to work with colleges in ensuring teachers are as prepared to teach math as they are reading. States that are being successful are legislating support programs and providing specific funding to support teacher training and coaching. Progress is strongest where schools target Algebra I in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade for all students and then move secondary math courses to support CTAE competencies. Support – Support – Support.</p> <p>Evening meeting with Sec Ed Linda McMahon -presented letter regarding the change in drawing ARP funds. She was positive and receptive. See letters of 3/28.</p> <p>Morning session included state leadership across the country and the federal update presented by Peter Zamora, CCSSO. Presentation were informational in nature with commentary on impact of the current Administration. Attention was given to areas of US Ed that are to be moved to other departments and how that might look.</p> <p>Took a separate lunch break to meet with counsel from the Bruman firm regarding out position with leaving high risk. Discussed the letter of application to be removed from high risk status. This will be finalized and submitted this week.</p> <p>Returned to attend the Territorial Chiefs’ luncheon and information session. CNMI, American Samoa, and I attended with CCSSO senior leaders and political liaison. The discussion centered on impact of changes in federal dollars and military buildup in the area</p> <p>Afternoon sessions on variety of topics. So far consolidated grant funding is already programmed into the CR for the remainder of the FY. There still is no indication of what the FY 26 budget will look like. There may be significant changes to E-rate due to changes at the FCC. Mostly around the use of internet hotspots. Further, Medicaid and local support of agriculture in school meals has been discontinued.</p> <p>Curriculum content discussion centered on Science of Reading. While this program has had strong success in some states, I need to see what we are doing with it. Is the content aligned and executed with fidelity in our classrooms. This is another area for monitoring by coaches as we work to provide quality material, training and instructional delivery.</p>
------------------------	---

**2. Do you expect that the skills and knowledge gained at the conference will enhance your job performance? In what ways? Explain. As this is year three if the current strategic plan, I anticipate verifying the strategies currently in place against measurable student growth or lack thereof. Insights refreshed on math instruction and science of reading will support assessment of actual professional development offerings.**

**3. How will the skills and knowledge you gained from the conference be translated into practice in the classroom, school, and district level? I will be reviewing results of projects under the Consolidated Grant with an eye to student growth or improved behaviors. Are we getting the results the goal areas have identified, and are they still valid.**

**4. How will the skills and knowledge you gained from the conference be shared with other educators? You may refer to your training plan. I will be working with Deputies to develop the sequence of sessions to evaluate the Strategic Plan based on the parameters currently included.**

**5. Please identify the funding source/project for this travel. Funding for travel was furnished by CCSSO. No cost to GDOE.**

K E Swanson  
Superintendent