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Governor of American Samoa

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Request for Public Comment on Special Education Funding Application

The American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) Special Education Division (SPED) has for public review the following:

- (a) Its application for funding and under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with the US Department of Education (USDOE).

These funds are used to provide special education services to all school age children, ages 3-21 years, in the Territory of American Samoa who has a disability that adversely affects their classroom achievement. As a condition for granting the funds, each state or territory proposing the application must submit the application for public review and comment.

Consistent with the American Samoa Special Education Act of 1977, amended in 2000, the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE-Special Education Division), has adopted a policy and procedure that a free, appropriate, public education will be made available to all children residing in American Samoa (AS) between the ages of 3 through 21, inclusive, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school.

The public must be afforded reasonable opportunities for comment for 30 days prior to the submission of the application before the deadline on May 22, 2024. The Department of Education-Special Education Division must review and give due consideration to all comments and suggestions prior to the submission of the application for funding. Public comments may be submitted no later than May 10, 2024 via email: herbert.boat@doe.as, sent by mail to: Dr. Herbert Boat, SPED Assistant Director, PO Box 1032, Pago Pago, AS 96799 or submission to DOE-Special Education Division main office in Fagaalu next to the Matafao Elementary School.

Copies of the application are available at the Office of Special Education Division located at the west end of the Matafao Elementary School in Fagaalu. All persons interested in the application are encouraged to pick up a copy between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. Written comments will also be taken during these hours. Comments and suggestions may also be made via email to herbert.boat@doe.as or may be sent surface mail to Dr. Herbert Boat, SPED Assistant Director, PO Box 1032, Pago Pago, AS 96799. The Annual State PartB Application for funding is also posted on the ASDOE website: www.asdoe.net.