

Trust Territory  
OF  
THE Pacific Islands

Department of Education

R. Burl Yarberry

COMMISSIONER for EDUCATION  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

EDUCATION  
NEWSLETTER

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A MESSAGE FROM:



R. BURL YARBERRY

As we inaugurate this Education Newsletter, we are hopeful that it will begin to serve as an additional and vital link in communications among all of us interested in education in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. There is such a tremendous interest at this time, and there is so much to be done in education now and in the future, that we must exchange, share and communicate ideas and information as we never have before, or be left in the wake of progress.

This Newsletter will not be an "Olympian" message from on high; it will rather be a part of a network of discussion which involves you and me. In it, you and I will read staff and laymen's reports about activities and special possibilities in Federal Programs, current educational issues and, we hope, much more.

At certain times in a society, there is an uncommon opportunity to participate uniquely in the fundamental development and building of that society. I judge this to be such a time in the Trust Territory; you and I, Micronesian and American alike, have such a remarkable opportunity in behalf of the citizens of this little known and often forgotten area of the world. In authentic and appropriate patterns, an educational enterprise can emerge here which will serve the people well in development; an enterprise which will stand not as a copy but as a model of what an open and democratic society can do to strengthen itself.

As you know, we have elemental yet complex problems in this educational development and we would be naive to shrug them off or ignore them. We might designate them within three categories: program or curriculum building, teacher and other staff training, and providing of facilities -- deceptively simple to state, yet very difficult to support and accomplish, especially if we achieve authenticity and appropriateness.

Our job, yours and mine, is to remember constantly that the students are out there, and to provide the best possible educational programs for them. What a magnificent opportunity we have!

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The program of public education in the Trust Territory receives its major financial support from the general appropriations budget. In addition, the Trust Territory is eligible to receive the benefits from special U. S. Federal assistance programs. Your Department of Education staff is striving diligently to take full advantage of all opportunities afforded. Recently, separate Territory Plans have been completed for participation in three special programs.

I. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT - TITLE III

Following guidelines and regulations in great detail, the Territory Plan includes an assessment of critical educational needs and a description of an innovative program to meet them. A Territory-wide Advisory Council, Wilhelm Rengiil, chairman, advises in the development and administration of the Plan.

The Title III Territory Plan for fiscal year 1970 has been approved by the U. S. Office of Education. Emphasis will be to increase the number and improve the competencies of teachers, and to provide for special education needs of youth with health impairments.

II. HIGHER EDUCATION ACT - TITLE V

To attract and qualify teachers to meet critical teacher shortages and to provide opportunities for experienced teachers to improve their teaching proficiency is the purpose of this Act. The Title V Territory Plan was submitted and official approval for participation in fiscal year 1970 has been received. As a result, new and improved teacher training programs at MTEC and MOC will be possible.

A Teacher Education Advisory Council has been formed to consult with and advise Howard Kerstetter, Deputy Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education, and Carl Daeufer, Coordinator for Teacher Education, on matters relating to the administration of the Act.

III. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT

A Territory Plan for Vocational Education has been prepared and submitted, and is awaiting official approval.

There are three divisions of the Plan. One is the general operating procedures for vocational education in the Trust Territory. The Manpower Advisory Council, "Gus" Moses, chairman, will provide advice and counsel as the Plan is administered. In the second division the present and projected vocational needs are described. A long range program is proposed to meet these needs. A detailed program is included in the third division. This division describes program organization and allocation of funds for fiscal year 1970.

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EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Geraldine and Robert Hunt, Trust Territory Specialists for Special Education, have completed a survey of educational needs. Many conditions which make school participation and learning difficult for a child, such as difficulties in hearing or vision, have been included in their survey. As a result of Geraldine and Robert's work, all six districts now have trained associates working in the area of special education. They are:

- MARIANAS Max Olopai, Special Education Associate, Education Department, Marianas District, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
- MARSHALLS Kenja Majena, Special Education Associate, Education Department, Marshall Islands District 96960
- PALAU Mike Ngirairikl, Special Education Associate, Education Department, Palau District, E. C. I. 96940
- PONAPE Danny Leopold, Special Education Associate, Education Department, Ponape, W. C. I. 96941
- TRUK Sos Maras, Health Educator, Special Education Associate, Public Health Department, Truk, W. C. I. 96942  
or  
Stem Salle, Special Education Associate, Health Department, Truk
- YAP J. Tutuw, Special Education Associate, Public Health Department, Yap, E. C. I. 96943

Work will continue under the direction of these associates as separate programs are developed in each district. Please contact the associates if you have any questions regarding children with special education needs, or if you would like to find out about services available to these children within your district.

DISTRICT TESL TRAINING

TESL Training for potential English teachers will be carried on for the third summer in the Trust Territory. TESL Training is generally expected to run from early July to late August. This year, as was true last year, training will be in-district and will involve Micronesian teachers as well as Peace Corps Volunteers.

In Palau, the Mariana Islands, and Truk, the Micronesian participants far outnumber volunteers. Peace Corps Trainees number as follows: Yap, 11; Mariana Islands, 7; Truk, 25; Marshalls, 29; Ponape, 30; Palau, 13. Trukese teachers number 66; Palauans, 49; Saipanese, 73.

Training sites are at Laura, Marshall Islands; Wone-Pata and Moen, Truk; Gagil in Yap; Wone in Ponape; Ngaremlengui in Palau; and at San Antonio Village in Saipan.

The TESL training programs this summer, designed on the experience of the previous summers' programs, will stress the real rather than the theoretical in

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teaching: the trainees and Micronesian teachers will be involved from the outset in classroom teaching, each district having arranged for the schools at the training site to be open. In each district, considerable cooperative planning between Trust Territory Education Staff and Peace Corps staff has gone into summer program design; while past programs have relied heavily upon Peace Corps' financing, the Trust Territory is funding its portion of the training and providing materials for all Trainees.

MATHEMATICS WORKSHOP

A Mathematics Curriculum Development and Training Workshop was held on Saipan, June 3 - 17. Eleven Micronesian and contract district elementary education personnel, an MTEC and a TESL representative participated.

Mr. E. W. Golding, Master of Method, Cowandilla Demonstration School, South Australia, served as workshop consultant. Under his direction the participants worked with modern mathematics materials; learning how children learn best by working with material objects and discovering ideas. This new approach to elementary mathematics will prepare students to make decisions now and twenty years from now.

All participants considered the idea of preparing children for now and for twenty years from now to be very important. They agree that children should learn by finding out, by doing things themselves and by understanding ideas and concepts rather than just memorizing facts.

Lynne Kada, Math-Science Specialist, reported that as a result of these experiences with materials and modern approaches to elementary math instruction, the workshop participants will be able to help their district teachers learn to use this approach to mathematics. Implementation will begin this fall.

PLANS FOR THE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Mr. Yarberry's message served to introduce the Newsletter. We hope that his message will become a regular feature as the Newsletter is produced each month.

Current pertinent information on Public Law 89-10 and other Federal assistance programs will be included in each issue. Other items of interest will serve to report and inform. Although the accounts will not be comprehensive in nature, they will be written to give general information. In doing so, many questions will surely come to mind. You are invited to send these questions, along with your comments and ideas, to Kenneth Streitmatter, Federal Programs Coordinator, who is editing the Newsletter.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DISCLAIMER

The Newsletter is being performed pursuant to a Grant from the United States Office of Education (USOE), Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. However, the opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the USOE and no official endorsement by the USOE should be inferred.