









I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHOR REPORT FILED	NOTES
216-36 (COR)	Telena Cruz Nelson Tina Rose Muña Barnes Joe S. San Agustin Jose "Pedro" Terlaje Joanne Brown Telo T. Taitague Sabina Flores Perez James C. Moylan	Relative to recognizing and observing December 2nd as National Special Education Day; and commending the personnel and staff of the Guam Department of Education – Special Education Division for their dedicated efforts to providing the necessary services and programs to special needs students and their families; and further expressing <i>Un Dàngkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'</i> for their continued support to our island students.	11/29/21 8:47 a.m.	TBA						

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 216-36 (COR)

Introduced by:

Telena Cruz Nelson 
Tina Rose Muña Barnes 
Joe San Agustin 
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje 
Joanne Brown 
Telo Taitague 
Sabina Perez 
James Moylan 

Relative to recognizing and observing December 2nd as National Special Education Day; and commending the personnel and staff of the Guam Department of Education – Special Education Division for their dedicated efforts to providing the necessary services and programs to special needs students and their families; and further expressing *Un Dângkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for their continued support to our island students.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS**, every year on December 2nd, the National Special Education Day
4 is celebrated and commemorates the anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities
5 Education Act (IDEA), which is our nation's first federal special education law, signed
6 by President Gerald Ford in 1975; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the National Special Education Day was first observed in 2005 in
2 honor of the anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),
3 which makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with
4 disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to
5 those special needs children; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Special Needs takes a variety of forms and can range from
7 developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, health conditions, or even giftedness;
8 and a disability is a natural part of the human experience and does not diminish the right
9 of individuals to participate in or contribute to society; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the observance of National Special Education Day is recognized
11 for the efforts to improve positive outcomes for special needs students and children with
12 disabilities by ensuring access to unlimited opportunities to learn and to lead purposeful
13 and fulfilling lives; and

14 **WHEREAS**, National Special Education Day also celebrates advancements
15 made in educating children with disabilities, and it also reminds us of the importance of
16 accommodating special needs children in ways that allow them to thrive in the
17 classroom as well as beyond the classroom setting; and

18 **WHEREAS**, through available trainings, services and programs offered, the
19 progress of special education have had significant benefits for children with disabilities;
20 and to date, more than seven million children receive special education services, where
21 many of these students spend most of the school day in general education classrooms;
22 and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) Special Education
24 Division is committed to the development of the mind, body and spirit of every student
25 through the unified efforts of the school, family and community; supported and nurtured
26 by appropriate funding and training, accountability, teamwork and advocacy; and
27 GDOE-SPED currently services 1754 students identified with special needs to include
28 but not limited to intellectual disability, speech/language impairment, hearing
29 impairment, visual impairment, and emotionally detached; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) Special Education
2 Division offers several parent support groups to assist and guide families with children
3 identified with special needs; and in collaborations with the Department of Integrated
4 Services for Individuals with Disabilities; Down Syndrome Guam Associations; Guam
5 Autism Community Together; Guam CEDDARS; Guam System or Assistive
6 Technology; Hunter Speaks Guam; Parents Empowering Parents; and the Guam
7 Developmental Disabilities Council; and

8 **WHEREAS**, GDOE-SPED recently partnered with Autism Community
9 Together (ACT) and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education.
10 The University of Guam for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education,
11 Research, and Service on a five-year professional development project, *Project Hita*
12 *Para Mo'na* (Moving Forward Together), which offers information and suggestions for
13 families and school professionals, working together, to ensure that the delivery of
14 special education instruction, services and supports continues to be designed to meet
15 the individual needs of students with disabilities in Guam, even during these
16 challenging times; and

17 **WHEREAS**, *Project Hita Para Mo'na* (Moving Forward Together) also assist
18 parents with understanding how special education services will be determined and
19 provided to their child(ren) during the extended closure of school campuses caused by
20 the global COVID-19 health pandemic; and the program offers information and
21 suggestions for families and school professionals; and

22 **WHEREAS**, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Guam Department of
23 Education – Special Education Division maintains federal guidance to ensure special
24 needs student's progress in the curriculum are accommodated with the remote/online
25 learning, face-to-face learning and/or hybrid learning; and as of August 24, 2020 there
26 are no changes to the special needs students rights under IDEA; and where
27 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) should be fully implemented; and

28 **WHEREAS**, in light of recent limitations due to the global pandemic of COVID-
29 19, special needs students continue to adjust to the different modes of learning which

1 hinders their full access to their unique learning programs tailored to their specific
2 need(s); and with the significant impact on their quality education, special needs
3 students experience increased distress due to the changes in instructional practices and
4 the disruption in their learning environment and routine; and

5 **WHEREAS**, GDOE-SPED continue to work collaboratively with students with
6 special needs and their families to reflect the importance of their involvement and
7 critical role in the child’s educational decisions and their successful partnerships,
8 working together in new and different ways; and guiding the appropriate expectations
9 now more than ever, rely upon open and positive communication, flexibility and
10 creativity as students with special needs navigate through the challenging circumstances
11 caused by COVID-19; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the National Special Education Day acknowledges special needs
13 children or children with disabilities and their families that overcome the stigma and
14 discrimination in their everyday lives, and continue to advocate for equal opportunities
15 for high-quality education; and observing December 2nd as the National Special
16 Education Day, now therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na*
18 *Lihe slaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognizes and
19 observes December 2nd as National Special Education Day; and commending the
20 personnel and staff of the Guam Department of Education – Special Education Division
21 for their dedicated efforts to providing the necessary services and programs to special
22 needs students and their families; and to further express *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os*
23 *Ma'åse'* for their continued support to our island students; and be it further

24 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
25 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
26 the same be thereafter transmitted to Jon Fernandez, Superintendent of the Guam
27 Department of Education; Thomas Babauta, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Special
28 Education of the Guam Department of Education; Attorney Dan Somerfleck; Director
29 Michelle Perez, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities;

1 Vicky Arriola, Down Syndrome Association of Guam; Evelyn San Agustin-Claros,
2 President of Guam Autism Community Together (ACT); Josephine Blas, Vice
3 President of Guam Autism Community Together (ACT); June De Leon, Interim
4 Director of Guam CEDDERS; Chairperson Lourdes Mesa, Guam System for Assistive
5 Technology (GSAT); Vince Duenas, Hunter Speaks Guam Organization; Executive
6 Director Jermaine Alerta, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council; and to the
7 Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF
DECEMBER 2021.**

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary