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Education Suruhanu

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February 8, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Superintendent of Education  
FROM: Education Suruhanu  
SUBJECT: Combining Classes/Grade levels at the FQ Sanchez Elementary School

Handwritten notes and signatures: "30-10-0139", "2/09/10", "305", and a large signature.

Dear Dr. Bretania Underwood:

My office recently received information reporting that all grade levels at the FQ Sanchez Elementary School are being combined. In other words, the Kinder and First grade classes are being combined, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes are being combined, and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes are being combined. I have also been informed that one teacher will be assigned to teach each of the combined classes in the same classroom, at the same time, and for the entire school day.

Please be advised that P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12)(a) requires public schools to provide a certified teacher for every class in a ratio established by relevant collective bargaining agreements. Here, FQ Sanchez has six different grade levels (Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>) with one class at each grade level. The combining of two different classes/grade levels into one class and assigning one teacher to teach two different classes/two different grade levels, at the same time, and for the entire school day is not acceptable under the current law. Such combining of classes merely joins two different classes/two different grade levels into one class.

The law does not currently provide for any exceptions that would allow for one teacher to two teach two different classes/two different grade levels at the same time. Therefore, the Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at FQ Sanchez are each required to have a certified teacher in order to come into compliance with P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (a).

Please provide to my office in writing, GDOE's plan for the combining of classes at FQ Sanchez within five days of receipt of this correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dominic Terlaje

cc: Honorable Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Chairman, Guam Education Policy Board  
FQ Sanchez Administration (via email)

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