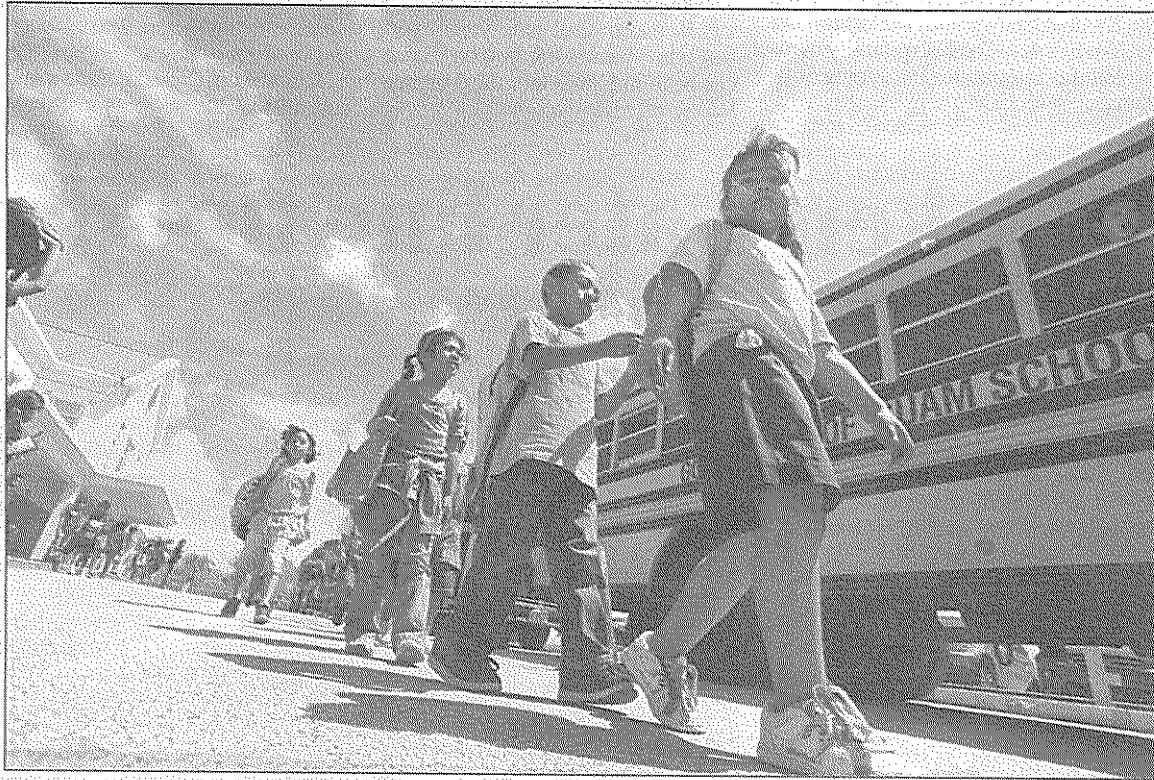


DOE to pick financial manager



Jacqueline Hernandez/Pacific Daily News/jhernande7@guampdn.com

Ready to improve: Students prepare to board a school bus after classes at Tamuning Elementary School on Friday. The Guam Department of Education will be evaluating vendor proposals this week to hire a third-party financial manager as mandated by U.S. DOE.



In Your Voice
Post your comment on
www.guampdn.com

By Amritha Alladi

Pacific Daily News
aalladi@guampdn.com

The Guam Department of Education should be selecting its choice for a third-party fiduciary agent before the end of this month.

According to schools' superintendent Nerissa Bretania Underwood, six vendors have submitted proposals and Guam DOE will start evaluating the proposals Wednesday through Friday.

She hopes the local school system will select a vendor following the presentation of their proposals this week.

"We really would like to be able to select the third party(agent) and start contract negotiations immediately," Underwood said on Thursday. "Depending on the nature of the

TO THE POINT

▲ Guam DOE will review six vendor proposals this week to hire a third-party financial manager as mandated by U.S. DOE.

DOE: Feds must OK choice

▲ Continued from Page 1

presentations, we're hoping to have a selection and to start the contract negotiations right away."

Once the local education agency makes its decision, the U.S. DOE will have to approve it.

The time element in selecting the third-party financial manager is important because U.S. DOE has threatened to pull all federal funding, including for special education, if a contract isn't finalized by June 30, according to Guam Education Policy Board member Rosie Tainatongo.

Last November, the federal agency told the local school system it would have to hire a money manager because it was worried the school system's questionable bookkeeping would jeopardize federal grant funding, of which every dollar must be spent under specific guidelines. The manager is meant to ensure those grant funds aren't misspent, according to Pacific Daily News files.

Underwood said on March 31 that if Guam DOE doesn't have a third-party fiduciary in place by July, then U.S. DOE won't release any new consolidated grant funding. The funding restriction will also impact special education funding, which has otherwise been unaffected by the federal mandate, she said.

▲ See **DOE**, Page 3