

Nov. 15
2007
#07-20

★ HSA scoring errors being found and corrected

Scoring errors by the test contractor on last spring's Hawaii State Assessment prompted a hand-check review of 1,971 test booklets that were most suspected of having errors, as well as the rescanning of the entire test booklets of nearly 98,000 students. Following is a preliminary report on the first stage of the review.

The errors, by The American Institutes for Research and its subcontractor MetriTech, Inc., mostly involved blank test booklets that were incorrectly recorded as having student responses, which produced scores that were included in school score reports. AIR has accepted full responsibility for the errors and is covering all costs associated with their correction.

Initially, 1,682 booklets were identified as being suspect because data files indicated they had responses in the multiple choice sections but none in the constructed response sections (see <http://doe.k12.hi.us>, under "News," Oct. 15). Another 289 booklets were later added to the suspect list for the opposite reason: data files showed constructed response scores but none under multiple choice.

Most of the first-stage, hand-check review of the 1,971 booklets was conducted October 23-24 at MetriTech in Champaign, Illinois, with two DOE observers present.

The review found 600 booklets that were supposedly complete but were actually blank, and another 192 that were partially complete but had some scoring errors, for a total of 792 of the 1,971 with errors. However, 43 of those had already been removed from the scoring reports, leaving 749 booklets, or 38% of the suspects, that were reported with errors. The 749 with errors included 558 that were blank, and 191 with other scoring errors.

Among the 558 blank booklets, 287 had been incorrectly scanned as having multiple choice answers, and 271 had been incorrectly scored as having constructed response answers.

All blank booklets will be removed from the scoring reports, which will affect the calculations that determine what percentage of a school's students reached proficiency.

By removing the low-scoring blank booklets, the proficiency level averages were changed at 147 schools in reading and 161 schools in math. For most schools, the effect was minimal.

In the percentage of students scoring at or above proficient, averages were unchanged for 49 schools in reading and 88 schools in math. Another 93 schools in reading and 68 schools in math saw proficiency levels rise from one-to-four percentage points. Only five schools in reading and five in math gained five percentage points and more (see sidebar for schools with greatest increases).

To ensure confidence in the scoring process, all test booklets are currently being rescanned at the AIR facility in Columbus, Ohio. The complete rescanning commenced on November 7 and was observed for two days by two other DOE employees. Results of the full rescanning are due to the DOE by December 15.

While removal of blank booklets helps a school by increasing its proficiency levels, it also decreases the participation level, which must be 95% or more in each subgroup to meet the No Child Left Behind benchmark for Adequate Yearly Progress.

When the scoring problem was announced on October 15, the DOE stated that no school will have its current AYP status lowered as a result of this error, since DOE guidelines hold the schools harmless on changes affected by systemic problems.

Final revised Hawaii State Assessment and AYP results will be available by mid-January 2008.

Proficiency increases as blanks removed

By removing blank booklets and blank sections that had previously been entered as low scores, a school's average performance increased, especially at schools that had a large number of the incorrectly scored tests or small numbers of test takers.

For example, Mokulele Elementary had a total of 24 blank booklets. Its grade 3 number tested was reduced from 57 to 46 in reading with removal of 11 blank booklets (a 19% difference), and from 55 to 47 in math with removal of eight blank booklets (a 15% difference).

At Kealakehe High, there were 101 blanks (18% of the total). Kealakehe's grade 10 number tested dramatically dropped from 437 to 352 in reading by removing 85 blank booklets (a 19% difference), and from 450 to 352 in math by removing 98 blank booklets (a difference of 22%).

Some of the smaller regular public schools and charter schools also experienced large swings in proficiency and the number tested.

For instance, if there were originally only 10 test takers at a small school and just two blank booklets were removed, the remaining eight would be a difference of 20%. If originally six of the 10 had reached proficiency, it would have been recorded as 60%. After removing the two blanks, it would be six out of eight, or 75%, an increase of 15 percentage points.

After removing incorrectly scored blank test booklets, the schools with the greatest increase in the percentage of students at or above proficient were:

Reading

- Grade 3 Mokulele Elementary, +14% (from 58% to 72%);
- Grade 4 Kihei Public Charter, +12% (from 71% to 83%);
- Grade 7 Halau Lokahi Public Charter, +10% (from 40% to 50%);
- Grade 10 Kealakehe High, +13% (from 56% to 69%).

Math

- Grade 3 Kuhio Elementary, +5% (from 67% to 72%); Mokulele Elementary, +7% (from 36% to 43%); Halau Lokahi Public Charter, +6% (from 44% to 50%);
- Grade 4 Kihei Public Charter, +7% (from 43% to 50%);
- Grade 10 Kealakehe High, +7% (from 25% to 32%).

★ **Board sets statewide community meetings**

The Board of Education is holding community meetings across the state to give school staff and citizens an opportunity to meet in an informal setting with Board members to discuss issues affecting the public schools and public libraries. The 2007-08 school year schedule began with Koko Head Elementary (Oct. 17), Wheeler Middle (Nov. 6), and Kainalu Elementary (Nov. 7).

Each meeting includes a brief report by the DOE on such matters as student achievement, school safety, and future education goals.

The remaining community meetings schedule is below:

BOE Community Meetings – 2007-08			
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>District</u>
November 28	Wednesday	Leihoku Elementary	Leeward Oahu
December 4	Tuesday	Haiku Elementary	Maui
January 17	Thursday	Waimea Canyon Middle	Kauai
January 31	Thursday	Highlands Intermediate	Leeward Oahu
February 5	Tuesday	Kilohana Elementary	Maui (Molokai)
February 13	Wednesday	Salt Lake Elementary	Central Oahu
February 28	Thursday	Hauula Elementary	Windward Oahu
March 5	Wednesday	Kalaniana'ole El. & Inter.	Hawaii
April 2	Wednesday	Washington Middle	Honolulu
April 10	Thursday	Naalehu El. & Inter.	Hawaii

★ **Rep. Takai helps gain extra impact aid**

For the past five years, the DOE has taken advantage of an impact aid provision to gain, on average, more than \$5 million in additional federal funds per year for Hawaii's public schools – or \$27.8 million more since 2003-04.

Under the leadership of State Rep. K. Mark Takai, and with assistance of housing officials at each Hawaii military command and the National Military Impacted Schools Association, Hawaii has claimed full impact aid credit for

military dependent students who are living temporarily off base while on-base housing is being renovated or replaced.

Impact aid partially offsets the loss of tax revenues to the states from military families who have various tax benefits. The impact aid amount is greatest for students who live in on-base housing, so if a family that would normally be living on base is temporarily displaced into the

community, the state can still claim the full amount that would be paid if they were living on base.

“Rep. Takai’s hard work and attention to detail is producing tens of millions of dollars in additional Federal Impact Aid for Hawaii’s public schools,” said Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto.

☐ On the web: See <http://doe.k12.hi.us> under “News,” Nov. 6



Rep. K. Mark Takai (left) presents check to DOE’s Greg Knudsen (right). Behind check from L to R: Kyle Fairbairn, MISA; Jason Tamura, RCI Army Hawaii; Rick Cunefare, Army Hawaii Family Housing; Jewel Csiszar, Army School Liaison Office; Cheryl Alakai, 15 CES/CERP Housing Privatization (Air Force); Lydia Caldwell, Marine Corps Family Housing Dept.; Glenda Simmons, 15 CES/CEH Government Housing (Air Force); Frank Leong, Marine Corps Family Housing Dept.; Cherise Imai, DOE Military Liaison; and Darren Dean, Air Force School Liaison.

Photo by Lisa Vargas

Calendar

BOE Meetings

Dec. 6 Hawaii (West)
3:30 p.m. Waimea Elementary

Dec. 13 Kauai
3:30 p.m. Koloa Elementary

BOE Committee Meetings

BOE Meeting Rm., 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 19 **Support Services**

Nov. 21 **Budget/Fiscal Account.**

Nov. 27 **Ad Hoc – Facilities**

Dec. 3 **Audit** (tentative)

BOE Community Meetings

School Cafeteria, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Nov. 28 **Leihoku Elementary**

Dec. 4 **Haiku Elementary**

Holidays

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving

Nov. 23 School Holiday

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Toll-Free Numbers

Call State offices on Oahu from the Neighbor Islands using a local or “800” toll-free number:

- Kauai274-3141
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DOE Home Page – <http://doe.k12.hi.us>

Update is prepared for each BOE meeting.
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