

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Accountability System

REFERENCE: Section 302A-1004, Hawaii Revised Statutes

ACTION REQUESTED: The department shall submit a report on the specifics of the implementation of the comprehensive accountability system, as well as the fiscal requirements and legislative actions necessary to maintain and improve the accountability system.

DOE REPORT: The Department of Education (Department) has a comprehensive accountability system that provides clear, concise, and actionable information on the Department's work in monitoring and improving student achievement, ensuring their safety and well-being, and promoting their civic responsibility.

Recent processes and publications include an Accountability Framework pursuant to 302A-1004, Hawaii Revised Statutes, published in November 2003. The framework was an effort to coordinate state and federal accountability initiatives into a holistic product that contained and explained department-wide strategic goals and key performance measures. It also sought to bring the state and federal accountability expectations into congruence with various state program planning, budgeting, and evaluation requirements. Finally, it represented the promotion of an accountability model that is essential to continuous improvement at all levels in the educational system.

Also, in May 2003, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) approved Hawaii's Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook that incorporated the myriad accountability requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. That Accountability Workbook was amended with the approval of the USDOE in August 2003. It is amended with the approval of the federal government. The most recent set of amendments took place in August 2008. The following is a summary of the substantive August 2008 revisions:

Substantive Amendment Requests	Disposition
<p>To specify that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) No school may solicit or encourage a written exemption request on behalf of any child or group of children; and (2) Every school is expected to inform parents upon parent request of the procedures for submitting a written exemption request. 	Approved
<p>To define the term "full academic year" to mean continuous enrollment from March 1st of one school year to March 1st of the next school year, and to use the first Monday in the month of March as a fixed census date if March 1st falls on a Saturday or Sunday.</p>	Approved, with reservations
<p>To count a student as "proficient" (for accountability purposes) if the student's growth rate on the <i>Hawaii State Assessment</i>, the <i>Hawaii State Alternate Assessment</i>, or the <i>Hawaiian Aligned Portfolio Assessment</i> places the student on a path toward the proficient benchmark for reading or math, or both, in three years.</p>	Denied
<p>To pool the reading/language arts and mathematics proficiency ratings of former SPED students with the proficiency ratings of current SPED students, for up to two school years.</p> <p>To pool the reading/language arts and mathematics test participation attribute of former SPED students with the test participation attribute of current SPED students, for up to two school years.</p>	<p>Approved only for proficiency rate calculation.</p> <p>Appeal concerning participation rate calculation denied without comment.</p>
<p>To continue using an interim procedure for determining the NCLB sanction status of schools that did not make AYP based solely on the proficiency rate of the students with disabilities subgroup by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Increasing the proficiency rate of the students with disabilities subgroup by a mathematical constant equal to 18 percentage points; and (2) Applying the foregoing procedure to school year 2007-2008, with the administration of the spring 2008 state assessment. 	Denied for SY 2007-08
<p>To specify that students who took the first reading or mathematics test session at one school but met the full academic year requirement at another school, will be attributed to the State (but not the school) for proficiency purposes.</p>	<p>Approved for SY 2007-08</p> <p>Denied after SY 2007-08</p>

Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, as amended by Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, provided an additional impetus to clarify and enhance the Department of Education's accountability system and processes. One of the most fundamental changes in that system is the publication of annual Educational and Fiscal Accountability Trend Reports on every school and complex as well as for the system as a whole. These trend reports provide the most recent three years of data on a broad set of indicators measuring student achievement as well as the Department's efforts to ensure their safety and well-being, and promote their civic responsibility. These reports, designed to be simple, accessible, and easy to read, are being produced in hard copy format and are being placed on the Department's website. The Department first published these reports in December 2004 and has recently published another set.