



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

May 21, 2009

To: The Honorable Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson
Board of Education

From: Margaret Cox, Chairperson *Margaret Cox*
Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support

Subject: **RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION RELATED TO
PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE WORLD-CLASS INSTRUCTIONAL
DESIGN AND ASSESSMENT (WIDA) ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PROFICIENCY (ELP) STANDARDS**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education (Board) Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support approve the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards to replace the Hawaii English Language Proficiency Standards (HELPS) for the purpose of assessment, as specified in Attachment A.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Board approval.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE

Upon Board approval.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation.

- No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Title III requires that ELP standards be aligned to the state ELP assessment.
- An alignment study conducted between the HELPS and the currently used ELP assessment, Language Assessment System (LAS) Links, showed poor to limited alignment.

- The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) explored how other states met the alignment requirement and found that nineteen states adopted WIDA standards.
- WIDA standards are used by the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, a national organization.
- States using WIDA are part of the national consortium. The consortium includes Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- The System Accountability Office's Student Assessment Section, the Instructional Services Branch's core content Educational Specialists and Resource Teachers, and the English Language Learner (ELL) Program Advisory Committee were involved in reviewing the alignment study findings and support adoption of the WIDA standards.

b. Previous actions of the Board on the same or similar matter

The Board approved the revised and updated HELPS in October 2008.

c. Other policies affected

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

- WIDA standards are aligned with the WIDA assessment. The WIDA assessment will be used instead of LAS Links.
- Adoption of the WIDA standards will help the Department comply with the NCLB requirement that state ELP standards be aligned with the state ELP assessment.
- The nineteen WIDA states found the WIDA standards aligned to their state academic standards.
- A cursory review by the Department content specialists on April 9, 2009, of the WIDA standards to the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS), indicated that the WIDA standards would be aligned with the HCPS.
- WIDA member states are voting members of the WIDA Board and have input in the standards and accompanying assessment, assuring that Hawaii will be involved in future discussions.
- WIDA is based at the School of Education, University of Wisconsin, a public agency.
- WIDA offers states professional development training, support, and a forum to discuss and share information on ELL issues.

e. Arguments against the recommendation.

- Resource teachers and content specialists have invested time and effort in developing HELPS over a two-year-period.
- While nineteen WIDA states found that WIDA standards align with their content standards, there is a small possibility that the Department's alignment study may not result in an acceptable percentage of alignment.

f. Findings and conclusion of the Board committee.

On May 6, 2009, the Committee on Curriculum, Instruction, & Student Support recommended to the full Board, approval of the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards to replace the Hawaii English Language Proficiency Standards (HELPS) for the purpose of assessment.

g. Other agencies or departments of the State of Hawaii involved in the action.

None.

h. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, HDOE staff and others to the recommendation.

It is anticipated that there will be a favorable response to the adoption of the WIDA standards as the ELL Advisory Committee unanimously endorsed the adoption of WIDA standards.

i. Educational implications

The adoption of the WIDA standards and the aligned assessment will assure compliance with NCLB Title III. Such alignment will provide more useful data to teachers.

j. Personnel implications

Personnel will require training in the implementation of the WIDA standards.

k. Facilities implications

None.

l. Financial implications

None.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

Attachment