

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Update: DOE exploring delayed use of SGP in teacher, principal evaluation systems

Good afternoon,

I am writing to share a quick update with you regarding the teacher and principal evaluation systems.

Our collective focus is on Goal 1 of our Strategic Plan: student success. With that focus, we maintain our commitment that measures of student performance must be included in our educator evaluation systems. At the same time, we reiterate our commitment to fair and thoughtful evaluation systems grounded in improving teacher and principal practice. This is why our educator evaluation systems are designed with a dual focus on student outcomes and professional practices.

The Department also remains committed to continually reviewing and improving its policies and practices. As you know, we've been working to raise educator voices in decisionmaking by increasing opportunities for input and feedback, including the continued convening of the Teacher-Leader Workgroup, the Principals Roundtable, the Technical Advisory Group, the HSTA-DOE Joint Committee, and surveys of teachers and principals. One of the areas of concern is our readiness to use student achievement data as part of educator evaluation systems.

Students and educators are still transitioning to the new, more rigorous Hawaii Common Core and the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), which will be administered for the first time this school year. In order to allow more time to transition to the new assessments, we are exploring the feasibility of delaying the use of SBA results in evaluation systems until the second administration of the test, which would be the test administered in the School Year (SY) 2015-16 school year. Therefore, student proficiency and growth results from School Year (SY) 2014-2015 would not be used as part of teacher and principal evaluation systems in the current year.

There is much more work to do to determine if and how this is possible and would be implemented. This afternoon, I sent the following letters to the leaders of [HSTA](#) and [HGEA](#) to share our intentions to explore this further with them, as well as our Board of Education (BOE) and the U.S. Department of Education (USED). There are implications for both BOE policies and our current Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver from the USED, and there is no guarantee a proposal to delay the use of student results in evaluation systems would be approved.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve our educator evaluation systems to be useful tools for reflection, support, and improvement. We will keep you updated as our work progresses.

Best,

Kathryn Matayoshi
Superintendent