

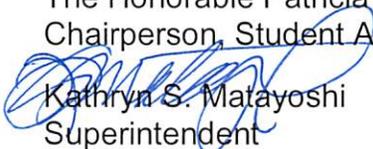


STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 1, 2015

TO: The Honorable Patricia Halagao  
Chairperson, Student Achievement Committee

FROM:  Kathryn S. Matayoshi  
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Committee Action on Board of Education Policy 500.8  
(Accreditation of Schools)**

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Education (Department) is recommending revisions to the three policies noticed on the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) Student Achievement Committee (SAC) agenda for December 1, 2015. The Board noticed the policies during the November 3, 2015 SAC meeting. The Department's proposed revisions to policy 500.8 are summarized in the table below and provided in greater detail in the attached exhibits.

Old Policy Number	New Policy Number	Policy Title	Proposed Revisions	Exhibit
2710	500.8	Accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changing the approval of the accrediting agency from the Board to the Superintendent.</li><li>• Add a rationale to the end of the policy, drawing upon language from the original policy, for consistency in formatting across policies.</li><li>• Other clarifying changes to demonstrate the goal to achieve and maintain accreditation.</li></ul>	A

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

The Department recommends that the SAC approve and adopt the policies as described in section 1.0 with immediate effective date.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE (if different from the effective date)

In September 2012, the BOE approved the Department's plan for all DOE K-12 schools to be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) by 2018-2019.

4. DISCUSSION (if different from the effective date)

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation

The Department used a cross-office review strategy to review and provide proposed revisions to the policies listed in section 1.0. The proposed Department revisions accept the recommendations from the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) and provide additional changes to maintain consistency in language and format across the policies.

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

On May 12, 2015, the Board of Education administratively referred the policy to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee (FIC). On May 19, 2015, FIC referred the policy to SAC, and then no action was taken at the general board meeting on the same day. No public testimony was received. There has been no other action since then.

c. Other policies affected

No other policies are affected by the proposed revisions.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

The proposed revisions accept the edits from the PIG on the policy audit and provide additional revisions for clarity and consistency.

Policy 500.8, as recommended, requires all DOE schools to achieve and maintain accreditation. The changes from the PIG aligns Board Policy with the Department workplan for accreditation, approved September 2012 which requires all schools – elementary and secondary to become accredited. The Department recommended changes in addition to PIG edits provides clarity that policy applies to Department schools but not Charter schools, focuses on outcome of achieving accreditation (vs. just participating), and assigns the

Superintendent responsibility for authorizing an appropriate accrediting agency.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

Schools have expressed concern over the cost of accreditation and funding requests have not been included in the Governor's budget request or been funded by the state budget. As a result, the schools have needed to use their Weighted Student Formula to fund expenses related to preparation of the WASC self study and visit as well as annual school membership fees for WASC. State office (currently the School of Transformation Branch) coordinates training, provides substitute teachers for training and school visit personnel. However, these expenses are not supported by dedicated funds so state office support may not be sustainable.

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

There are no other agencies or departments of the State of Hawaii that are involved in this action.

g. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, DOE staff and/or others to the recommendation

Possible reactions and implications are addressed in sections 4.d and 4.e.

h. Educational implications

Accreditation involves self study and a visit by a committee which provides opportunity for schools to reflect upon and get feedback on it's programs and outcomes. It can be a valuable reflection and planning tool.

i. Personnel implications

Preparing for accreditation takes time. Schools often assign a teacher to be the school's accreditation coordinator. Such a position would be discretionary, and would need to be funded by Weighted Student Formula.

j. Facilities implications

There are no identified facilities implications at this time.

k. Financial implications

No funds have been allocated specifically to support implementation of this policy. Schools support these initiatives primarily through Weighted Student Formula.

State office support is not a recurring budget item and may not be sustainable.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no supplementary recommendations at this time.

TOC:SS:kp

Attachment: Exhibit A - Policy 500.8 - Recommended changes (mark up)  
Exhibit B – Policy 500.8 - "Clean" version of recommended changes

c: Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance

**POLICY 500.8**

**ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOLS  
[POLICY]**

~~[The accreditation process is a vehicle for school improvement involving a perpetual cycle of assessment, planning, implementing, monitoring, and reassessment. The self-study phase of the accreditation process revolves around an in-depth gathering of evidence that enables a school to take an honest look at what is and isn't working based upon criteria set by the accrediting agency as well as schoolwide learner outcomes specified by the school.]~~

~~[The accreditation process also involves the systematic development of schoolwide improvement plans that are monitored and updated annually and thus support school renewal.]~~

All [~~public~~ **secondary**] *department* schools and community schools for adults shall [~~engage in the~~] *achieve and maintain* accreditation, [~~process as prescribed by the~~] *The* accrediting agency [~~that has been~~] *shall be* designated by the Board [~~of Education~~].

~~[All other public schools are encouraged to engage in the accreditation process.]~~

*Rationale: The accreditation process is a vehicle for school improvement involving a perpetual cycle of assessment, planning, implementing, monitoring, and reassessment.*

Approved: 10/23/75; Amended: 3/88; 03/99

**Key**

**Bold and Blue:** edits made by the permitted interaction group.

*Italics and black:* edits proposed by the Department.

Underlines: additional proposed text, beyond what was in the original policy.

~~Strikethrough:~~ proposed deletions, limited to the text that is struck-through and bracketed.

Exhibit B

**POLICY 500.8**

**ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOLS**

All department schools and community schools for adults shall achieve and maintain accreditation. The accrediting agency shall be designated by the Board.

Rationale: The accreditation process is a vehicle for school improvement involving a perpetual cycle of assessment, planning, implementing, monitoring, and reassessment.

Approved: 10/23/75; Amended: 3/88; 03/99