



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 3, 2016

TO: The Honorable Patricia Halagao
Chairperson, Committee on Student Achievement

FROM:  Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Committee Action on the following Board of Education (“Board”) Policy:
106.2, Class Size**

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Education (Department) is recommending revisions to policy 106.2 (originally policy 2237).

Original Policy Number	New Policy Number	Original Policy Title	Summary of Proposed Revision(s)
2237	106.2	Class Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department proposes several revisions for consistency in formatting and no revisions in response to the proposed edits from the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG).

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

The Department recommends that the committee approve and adopt the policy as described in section 1.0, with immediate effective and compliance dates.

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

See section 2.0.

4. DISCUSSION (if different from the effective date)

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation

The Department used a cross-office strategy to review revisions to the policy listed above. The proposed revisions are intended to provide additional clarity,

bring the policies up to date with current implementation status, and/or to incorporate feedback from principals and other stakeholders.

The original policy (policy number 2237) focuses on reducing class sizes by providing optimum student to teacher ratios for specific grade spans and directing the Department to implement the policy in a manner that is “educationally sound, instructionally appropriate, and as funds are available.”

The proposed revisions from the PIG shift the emphasis from reducing class size to optimizing class size, with continued support for smaller class sizes. The PIG maintained the optimum student to teacher ratios from the original policy.

In addition, the proposed revisions from the PIG move some language from the introductory paragraph to a new rationale section at the end of the policy, in alignment with formatting conventions.

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

November 19, 2014: Administratively referred to the Student Achievement Committee.

c. Other policies affected

No other policies are affected by this policy.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

The proposed revisions maintain a focus on class size by maintaining the optimum teacher to student ratios, but shift the emphasis from class size reduction to class size optimization. Student teacher ratios are ultimately determined by each school and the change in language from “reducing” to “optimizing” allows schools the autonomy to focus on establishing class sizes that take into account the conditions that best fit their specific needs.

Each school operates within a unique context regarding facility size, teacher pool, school-specific academic needs, student body demographics, and funding. All of these factors must be taken into consideration when determining class sizes.

The policy is consistent with Article VI of the collective bargaining agreement with the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) which contains a provision maintaining an average statewide class size ratio of 26.15 to 1.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

Opponents of the proposed revisions may be interested in language that explicitly holds the state office and schools accountable for reducing class sizes and/or language mandating specific student to teacher ratios.

Opponents may also have concerns that the class size ratio in the HSTA collective bargaining agreement may not be appropriate.

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

No other agencies or departments were involved in the action. The collective bargaining agreement with HSTA contains language related to the establishment of class sizes.

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

See section 2.e.

- h. Educational implications

There are no educational impacts at this time, based on the PIG recommendations.

- j. Facilities implications

There are no facilities impacts at this time, based on the PIG recommendations.

- k. Financial implications

There are no financial impacts at this time, based on the PIG recommendations.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None

TOC:SS:kp

Attachments: Exhibit A: Policy 106.2 – Recommended changes (mark up)
Exhibit B: Policy 106.2 – “Clean” version of recommended changes

- c: Office of Strategy, Innovation, and Performance
Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support

POLICY 106.2

**CLASS SIZE
[POLICY]**

The Board [*of Education*] is committed to **reducing** **optimizing** class size in order to promote quality instruction and positive teacher-student interaction. ~~**Reducing class size at the lower grade level is critical in educating students as they begin the basic tenets of learning to read and write and do math. Reducing class size at the lower grade level is an imperative strategy to support student learning and achievement. Research supports a lower student to teacher ratio in the lower grades for optimum teaching and learning.**~~

The optimum class size for grades K-3 shall be 20:1; provided that the maximum class size for grades K-2 shall be 25:1. The optimum class size for grades 4-12 shall be 26:1.

The Department [*of Education*] shall implement this policy to ensure that instructional personnel and other staff are allocated in a manner that is educationally sound, instructionally appropriate, and as funds are available.

Rationale: Small class size at the early grade levels is critical to support student learning and achievement. Research supports a low student to teacher ratio in the early grades for optimum teaching and learning.

Approved: 10/21/04

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 106.2

CLASS SIZE

The Board is committed to optimizing class size in order to promote quality instruction and positive teacher-student interaction.

The optimum class size for grades K-3 shall be 20:1; provided that the maximum class size for grades K-2 shall be 25:1. The optimum class size for grades 4-12 shall be 26:1.

The Department shall implement this policy to ensure that instructional personnel and other staff are allocated in a manner that is educationally sound, instructionally appropriate, and as funds are available.

Rationale: Small class size at the early grade levels is critical to support student learning and achievement. Research supports a low student to teacher ratio in the early grades for optimum teaching and learning.