




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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 15, 2018

TO: The Honorable Kenneth Uemura
Chairperson, Finance and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto 
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Committee Action on Board of Education Policy 301-2 Creating
Communities of Learners**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee (FIC) that:

An amendment be made to Board of Education (BOE) Policy 301-2 Creating Communities of Learners, to establish land area guidelines for new schools built on urban infill sites (see Attachments 1, 2, and 3). Policy 301-2 sets forth guidelines for new school enrollment capacities and campus land area.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon approval of the BOE.

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

Not applicable.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation:

The Department of Education (DOE) is in the initial planning stages for new schools in the urban corridor along the planned rail route. With transit oriented development projected to generate increased enrollment, well beyond the capacity of existing schools, there is expected to be a need to site several new schools in urban areas. Policy 301-2 was established for new school designs in large scale residential

developments where open land for schools was readily available. An urban exception to Policy 301-2 is needed to reconcile policy guidelines with the condition of limited available land in existing urban areas.

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

At the January 18, 2018, FIC meeting, the Office of School Facilities and Support Services presented a draft amendment to Policy 301-2. The draft sought to amend requirements for new school built in urban areas. The committee asked that the amendment provide ranges for land area requirements and student enrollments, to provide greater flexibility in siting new schools in urban areas.

These changes have been made and are included in the attached documents for review (see Attachments 1, 2, and 3).

c. Other policies affected:

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation:

Amending Policy 301-2, to reflect urban specific guidelines, will allow the DOE to consider a wider set of potential sites for new schools in the urban area.

e. Arguments against the recommendation:

None.

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

None.

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

Except for the feedback provided by Hawaii State Teachers Association at the General Board Meeting on February 1, 2018, we have no formal comments from other impacted stakeholders that would indicate what their reaction might be.

h. Educational implications:

Limited land areas for new schools will require that future schools be designed and built in a vertical typology. It may also require that outdoor activities be conducted on adjacent land areas such as City parks or existing urban school campuses.

i. Personnel implications:

None.

j. Facilities implications:

There is expected to be a rise in the cost to construct schools in the urban area, due to vertical construction and limited areas to stage construction work.

k. Financial implications:

By reducing the land area requirement there could be a significant reduction in cost for new school sites.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

CMK:jmb

Attachments: Attachment 1 – Policy 301-2, Clean Version
Attachment 2 – Policy 301-2, Mark-up
Attachment 3 – Policy 301-2, Original

c: Office of School Facilities and Support Services

POLICY 301-2**CREATING COMMUNITIES OF LEARNERS**

The Department of Education shall design school facilities that create smaller communities of learners. For existing schools with high enrollments, the state office and school staff shall analyze their school performance indicators to determine if the school size is negatively affecting student achievement. If student achievement is found to be negatively affected, school staff and community members shall identify and implement educational programs that create smaller communities of learners.

To foster greater personalization established through educational programming and smaller communities of learners while providing flexibility when planning schools for new communities, design enrollment guidelines for new schools shall be:

Elementary (K-5)	400-750 students	8 to 15 usable acres
Middle (6-8)	500-1,000 students	15 to 20 usable acres
High (9-12)	800-1,600 students	45 to 55 usable acres

In existing urban areas where the availability of land is limited to infill sites and where new housing developments require the construction of new school facilities, design enrollment guidelines for new schools shall be:

Elementary (preK-5)	400-750 students	2.5 to 3 useable acres
Middle (6-8)	500-1000 students	5 to 6 useable acres
High (9-12)	800-1600 students	8 to 10 useable acres

The Department shall make every effort to ensure that all educational needs are met when designing and siting new urban-based school facilities. Where possible, the Department should seek design solutions that create environments conducive to creating communities of learners in urban areas.

(The Department shall make the final determination as to whether land is usable based on an evaluation of the specific property taken in the context of the development as a whole. Usable is generally defined as land free of encumbrances determined to be unnecessary by the Department, slope of five percent or less, and with no ravines or stream beds.)

Rationale: Research studies show that a larger student enrollment may depersonalize the school environment, thereby negatively affecting student attitude, behavior, and academic achievement.

POLICY 301-2

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To foster greater personalization established through ~~programmatic~~ educational programming and/or smaller communities of learners, while ~~still~~ providing ~~needed~~ flexibility when planning schools for new communities, ~~the following~~ design enrollment guidelines for new schools ~~are~~ shall be:

Elementary (K-5)	400-750 students	8 to 15 usable acres
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Rationale: Research studies show that a larger student enrollment may cause depersonalization of a school's environment, thereby deterring the development of positive student attitude, behavior and academic achievement.

[Approved: 02/17/2015 (as Board Policy 301.2); amended: 06/21/2016 (renumbered as Board Policy 301-2)]

Former policy 6701 history: approved: 03/20/1997; revised: 04/18/2002, 12/2007, 06/2008