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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

September 7, 2023

Hawaii State Board of Education
Student Achievement Committee
Bill Arakaki, Committee Chairperson
Lauren Moriarty, Committee Vice Chairperson

Aloha Chair Arakaki, Vice Chair Moriarty, and Members of the Committee,

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

HawaiiKidsCAN would like to offer comments for Discussion Item A: resentation on Board of Education Update on Strategic Plan, Desired Outcome 1.1.2. “All students read proficiently by the end of third grade, and those who do not read proficiently receive necessary and timely support to become proficient.”

HawaiiKidsCAN is in strong support of the Hawaii DOE’s efforts to improve early literacy outcomes. Given the significance of literacy on broader life outcomes, this is nothing less than a civil rights issue. We appreciate the Hawaii DOE’s focus on the Science of Reading, and feel confident in the early literacy major initiatives and next steps presented today.

HawaiiKidsCAN is interested in the following framework for early literacy priorities. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Hawaii DOE and other aligned partners to move this work forward:

- Creating incentives to increase adherence to the Science of Reading in K-12 schools and teacher preparation programs.
- Increasing funding for K-12 professional development in the Science of Reading.

- Increasing accountability for teacher preparation programs aligned with the Science of Reading.
- Requiring K-2 universal screening for reading difficulties.
- Sustainable funding for quality curriculum grounded in the Science of Reading.

We would also encourage BOE members and the public to learn more about this topic by listening to the *Sold a Story: How Teaching Kids to Read Went So Wrong* podcast series by APM Reports, or watching the documentary film *The Right to Read*.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

Board of Education

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Susan Pcola-Davis Testimony

III. Discussion Items

A. Presentation on Board of Education Update on Strategic Plan, Desired Outcome 1.1.2. “All students read proficiently by the end of third grade, and those who do not read proficiently receive necessary and timely support to become proficient.”

NOTE: 40 pages

Comments:

1. At present, Smarter Balanced Assessment **results indicate half of third grade students in Hawai‘i’s public schools are demonstrating grade-level literacy proficiency.**

Where is the source of this?

2. Theory Of Action:

1. Where is the source? Research based evidence on this theory.
2. “as measured by...” This whole document performance measure is Percentage of third-grade students achieving grade-level proficiency on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Additional measures include school-based universal screener and classroom data.
3. The primary performance measure is the Smarter Balanced Assessment third- grade proficiency data. Additional measures may include classroom universal screeners, progress monitoring assessments, and classroom data.

CHALLENGE: At present, Smarter Balanced Assessment results indicate half of third grade students in Hawai'i's public schools are demonstrating grade-level literacy proficiency.

Where is the source of this?

Theory Of Action:

Where is the source? Research based evidence on this theory.

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The Department will present on the latest state assessment data, including the **SY 2022-2023 Smarter Balanced Assessment** results, at a future Student Achievement Committee meeting.

Why?

UHM COE Reading Interventionist Program: Reading interventionists will work with teachers to determine timely and evidence-based interventions for struggling readers to support their growth towards achieving reading proficiency by third grade.

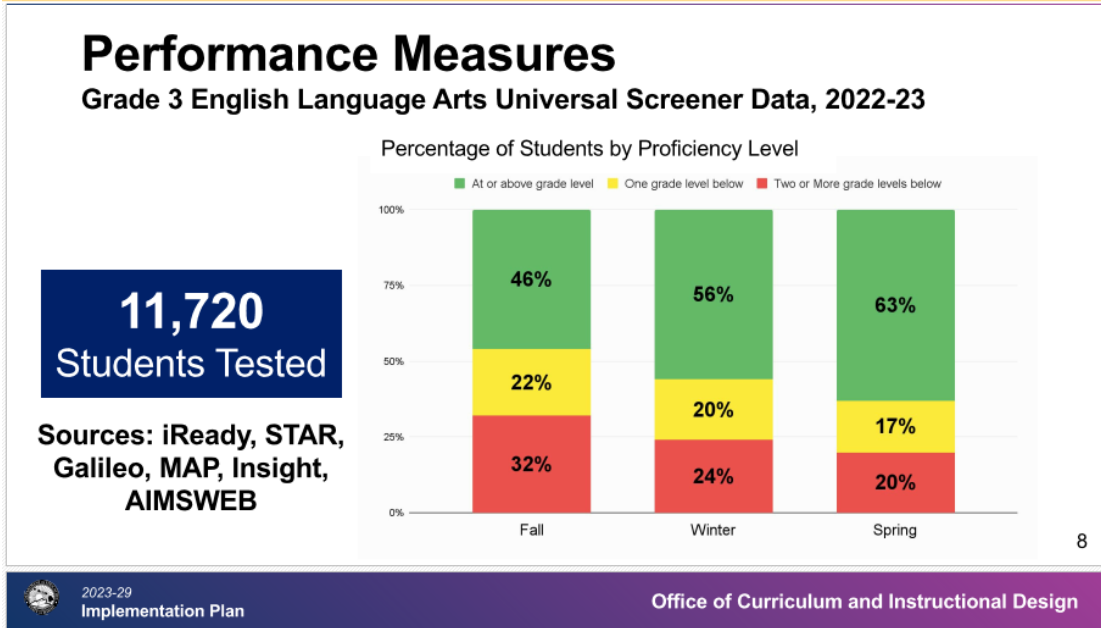
What is the current number of graduates? Does that mean that 25 graduated last year? Where are they placed?

SLIDE 8: Performance Measures: Grade 3 English Language Arts Universal Screener Data, 2022-23

1 grade level below + 2 or more levels below

Fall	54%
Winter	44%
Spring	37%

Shows improvement but does not show whether those students with 1-2+ levels below are the same students improving. Also it doesn't show how the 37% in the spring are going to be provided support.



SLIDE 15: Progress to Date: Language Essentials for Teaching Reading and Spelling (LETRS) **Is there a Measure?**

The Office of Student Support Services provides training and coaching for preschool teachers on effective language and literacy instruction (LETRS for Early Childhood). This initiative will help build teacher capacity in understanding the critical elements of effective early literacy instruction and provide preschool teachers with the requisite skills to create a foundation of success for our youngest learners. This initiative will help ensure young learners, who struggle with oral language and early literacy skills, can successfully transition to kindergarten.