



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

May 11, 2010

MEMO TO: The Honorable Garrett Toguchi, Chair
Board of Education

A handwritten signature in cursive, likely belonging to Dr. Lei Ahu Isa.

FROM: Dr. Lei Ahu Isa, Chairperson
Committee on Curriculum, Instruction & Student Support

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION ON
PROPOSED COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS**

1. **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Education (Board) approve the draft version of the proposed Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Mathematics (Attachment A).

2. **RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE**

It is recommended that the adoption of the CCSS be effective upon Board affirmation of the final CCSS draft approval.

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

It is recommended that the adoption of the CCSS be effective by the 2011-2012 school year.

4. **DISCUSSION**

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation

To develop the standards, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association (NGA) Center worked with representatives from participating states, a wide range of educators, content experts, researchers, national organizations, and community groups. The following is the timeline of the development of the standards:

- Winter 2009 -- NGA and CCSSO propose a project to develop common state standards in ELA and mathematics;
- Spring 2009 -- Governors and Commissioners of Education from 48 states, 2 territories, and the District of Columbia agree to support the project;
- June 2009 to January 2010: Drafts of College- and Career-Readiness and K-12 Standards are released to states; states submit several rounds of comment on successive drafts.
- March 10-April 2, 2010: Public release of draft on Common Core website and public comment period.
- May 2010: Final versions of the K-12 standards documents expected to be released.

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

None.

c. Other policies affected

Board Policy 2015 "Hawaii Content and Performance Standards".

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

The CCSS represents a set of expectations for student knowledge and skills that will result in high school graduates who are prepared for success in college and careers. CCSS is an opportunity to not only establish common expectations for teaching and learning between states, but further, it provides leverage to move forward and be innovative on behalf of students and teachers.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

The current version of the CCSS that is available is only a draft. The finalized documents are intended to be released near the end of May.

In addition, the capacity of the system to fully support teachers to be able to implement the CSSS with fidelity may be called into question.

f. Findings and conclusion of the Board committee

On May 11, 2010, the Committee on Curriculum, Instruction & Student Support recommended that the proposed draft of the CCSS be recommended to the full Board.

According to the Department of Education, the anticipated date for the final draft may not be until late May 2010. It is anticipated that the current final round of

revisions will not alter the documents in such a way as to make them suddenly unfavorable for adoption. Taking the initiative to approve the adoption of the CCSS at the July 2010 meeting will strengthen the state's RTTT application.

g. Other agencies or departments of the State involved in the action

None.

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

The capacity of the system to fully support teachers to be able to implement the standards with fidelity will be called into question. However, the plan for implementing the standards is the central focus of the state's Race To The Top (RTTT) application, and thus, the system has a plan in place to be proactive and responsive to implementation issues that must be addressed.

i. Educational implications

The Common Core State Standards will enable participating states to:

- Articulate to parents, teachers, and the general public expectations for students;
- Align textbooks, digital media, and curricula to the internationally benchmarked standards;
- Ensure professional development for educators is based on identified needs and best practices;
- Develop and implement an assessment system to measure student performance against the common core; and
- Evaluate policy changes needed to help students and educators meet the common core standards expectations

j. Personnel implications

None.

k. Facilities implications

None.

l. Financial implications

If Hawaii is awarded an RTTT grant, the financial support will exist for the system to be able to move forward with the implementation plan. If Hawaii is not awarded an RTTT grant, the system will need to rely on existing resources and

personnel to support schools and teachers with implementation of curricula aligned to the CCSS.

5. **OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

None.

Attachment