



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

August 23, 2010

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

FROM: Janis Akuna, Chairperson 
Committee on Budget & Fiscal Accountability

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION ON THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION'S ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION ON THE
COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS' PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2010-12**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education (Board) adopt the Committee on Weights (COW) recommendation for changes to the Weighted Student Formula, with the exception of placing all funding for Alternative Learning Centers (ALCs) into the WSF and the recommendation to place Program ID 15698, School-Based Behavioral Health (SBBH) Services, funds into the WSF. Instead, it is recommended that in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12, the seven (7) Education Specialists and fifteen (15) Clerk Typists from Program ID 15698, School-Based Behavioral Health (SBBH) Services, resources be placed into the Indexed Complex Area Administration (ICAA) to increase the capacity at the complex area offices to facilitate the operation of schools by providing management, fiscal, planning, logistical, and other supporting services.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

The recommended effective date is for School Year (SY) 2011-12, but distribution upon Board adoption for planning purposes.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE

Upon Board approval.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 302A-1303.5 requires the Department to establish a COW at least annually for the purpose of reviewing the WSF and, if the COW deems it necessary, to recommend a new weighted student formula for adoption by the Board. This COW upon the review of the budget and allocation information made available by the Department, testimony from school principals, School Community Council members, and other interested individuals deems it necessary to recommend changes to the current Board adopted WSF.

The vote to move SBBH Services into the WSF took place on Monday, July 26, 2010. On August 6, 2010, following two furlough days and a weekend, the COW met to finalize its recommendation. Dissemination of the COW recommendation was not widely distributed during the four workdays that preceded the final meeting of the COW. Testimony was not submitted.

After consultation with staff from the School Based Behavioral Health (SBBH) program, the Office of Fiscal Services recommended that the resources from SBBH Services be transferred into the ICAA to support the effective delivery of all services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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

Annually the Board considers the COW's recommendation. In 2009, the Board adopted the recommendation from the COW on Weights that the WSF for SY 2010-11 not be changed from that used in SY 2009-10. In 2008, the Board added funds from Youth Leadership Project, Athletic Directors, the Health Career Academy, Instruction for Pregnant Teens, Pregnant Teen Center – Maui, and In-School Suspension categorical programs into the WSF; reduced enrollment thresholds for qualifying for additional funding from the Sliding Scale Thresholds; and placed a cap on the amount of funds that could be used for the Loss Threshold to 1.5% of the WSF budget.

In 2009, the Board approved the reorganization of the Office of Fiscal Services that called for the transfer of 7.0 permanent Departmental Contracts Specialists from this 15698, School Based Mental Health Services, to the Procurement and Contracts Branch. The positions have not yet been formally transferred in the Department's budget. A request to reflect this prior transfer that was previously approved by the Board will be included in the Department's Fiscal Biennium 2011-13 Budget Request.

c. Other policies affected

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

SBBH Services incumbents are needed at the complex areas to cross check invoices for contracted services to students and help with the timely processing of payments.

Allocating the SBBH Service resources to the complex areas will avoid creating situation where schools will have to buy back the services.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

Moving approximately \$1.1 million from SBBH Services into the WSF would increase the amount of funds distributed to schools. The weight of a 1.0 student would increase by approximately \$5.50.

f. Findings and conclusions of the Board Committee

On August 23, 2010, the Committee on Budget & Fiscal Accountability (Committee) recommended to the full Board, approval of the proposed changes in the WSF for SY 2011-12 as presented by the Department and with the exception of the inclusion of the ALCs to the WSF.

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 possible reaction may range from mixed to positive depending on the level or organizational responsibility within the Department.

i. Educational implications

The Department continues to take the position that the amount of funds in WSF does not represent an adequate per student base funding to support all students to achieve the Common Core State Standards.

The Department does believe that the proposed recommendation represents a reasonable and equitable method to distribute available resources that will

provide all school communities with funds to support increased student achievement.

j. Personnel implications

Incumbents currently in positions assigned to 15698, School Based Mental Health Services (7.0 permanent SBBH District Educational Specialists and 15.0 Clerk Typists) may be retained if complex area superintendents budget for these positions in their SY 2011-12 Complex Area Financial Plans.

k. Facilities implications

None.

l. Financial implications

Previously covered in the recommendation.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

Attachments (2)