



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEB 12 2015

The Honorable Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent of Education
Hawaii Department of Education
PO Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

Dear Superintendent Matayoshi:

I am writing in response to the Hawaii Department of Education's (HIDOE) January 8, 2015 request to pilot with certain students new Hawaiian Language State Assessments in lieu of the State's English language arts and mathematics assessments in the 2014–2015 school year. The Hawaiian Language State Assessments will be administered to approximately 250 third- and fourth-grade students enrolled in Hawaiian Language Immersion Programs in 14 schools. Specifically, HIDOE has requested to waive certain statutory and regulatory requirements of Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA).

I am pleased to grant, pursuant to my authority under section 9401 of the ESEA, a one-year waiver for the 2014-2015 school year of the following statutory requirements under Title I, Part A of the ESEA and their associated regulatory provisions:

- ESEA sections 1111(b)(1)(B) and 1111(b)(3)(C)(i), which require the State educational agency (SEA) to apply the same academic achievement standards, and to use the same academic assessments, for all public school children in the State. HIDOE requested these waivers so that the students in the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program will be permitted to take only one assessment in each content area in 2014–2015 — either the Statewide assessment or the pilot of the new Hawaii Language State Assessment.
- ESEA section 1111(b)(3)(C)(xii), which requires the provision of individual student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports that include information regarding achievement on State assessments to parents, teachers, and principals as soon as is practically possible after an assessment is given. HIDOE requested this waiver for those students who participate in the pilot of the Hawaiian Language State Assessments because it will not have sufficient data from the pilot on which to provide a report that includes clear, actionable information about a student's performance.

This waiver is granted to HIDOE on the condition that it will implement the following assurances:

- HIDOE will ensure that all students in the tested grades who do not participate in the pilot will take the Statewide assessment in that subject, as required by the ESEA.

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

- HIDOE will ensure that the Hawaiian Language State Assessments are aligned to the State’s content standards in English language arts and mathematics.
- HIDOE will make accountability determinations for all schools in the State based on the students who take the Statewide assessments administered in the 2014-2015 school year, consistent with the State’s minimum number of students necessary to produce statistically valid and reliable results and the State’s small school review procedures.¹
- HIDOE will report performance against AMOs for subjects and grades that are not part of the pilot for a school that participates in the pilot and for all schools that do not participate in the pilot.
- HIDOE will meet all reporting obligations with respect to reporting the actual achievement of students who take the Statewide assessments.

The U.S. Department of Education is currently in the process of revising the Title I assessment peer review process. Once that process is reinstated, Hawaii must submit its full assessment system for peer review, including the Hawaiian Language State Assessments.

Thank you for your commitment and continued focus on enhancing education for all of Hawaii’s students. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Siry in the Office of State Support at: OSS.Hawaii@ed.gov or (202) 260-0926.

Sincerely,



Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

¹ Note that HIDOE may request through its ESEA flexibility renewal not to assign new school ratings following the administration of new assessments in 2014-2015