



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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March 3, 2022

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Catherine Payne, Chairperson
Hawaii State Board of Education
P. O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96814

RE: IV. A. Board action on amendment of and addendum to ESEA
Consolidated State Plan

Dear Chair Payne and Members of the Board,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) would like to express support for approving the Department's proposed amendment of and addendum to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Consolidated State Plan. Our leadership team met with Glenn Nochi from the Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance on February 14th to learn more about the proposal and provide feedback. SEAC is cognizant of the need for some short-term flexibility in the way it reports data on growth and proficiency given disruptions to statewide assessments caused by the pandemic.

Our original reservation regarding the proposed addendum was the consideration of replacing or modifying the chronic absenteeism measure with another measure for the current school year only. However, the Department committed to maintaining the chronic absenteeism measure after discussion with members of the Student Achievement Committee.

SEAC is in strong support of the amendment to revise the minimum number of students for which data shall be reported (the n-size) from 20 to 11 in keeping with state statutes enacted in 2020. By declaring 11 as an N-size for accountability on our ESSA State Plan, Hawaii will join 17 other states in having an n-size of 11 students or lower to promote greater accountability for student sub-groups, like students with IEPs, while at the same time protecting student privacy and ensuring statistical reliability (<https://all4ed.org/publication/n-size-in-essa-state-plans/>).

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support and comments.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair