

What is REACH?

The **Reinventing Education Act of 2004**, passed by the Hawaii State Legislature, enables the Department of Education to significantly reshape our public school system.

The Department of Education calls this effort the **Reinventing Education Act for the Children of Hawaii (REACH)**. It is based on three key principles:

- **Empowerment:** Our principals and communities will have greater *reach* – more authority, more decision-making ability and more control over funds.
- **Streamlining:** When our schools *reach* for resources, they will get them quickly and easily.
- **Accountability:** With greater reach, comes greater responsibility. Everyone in the Department of Education – teachers, principals, administrative and support staff – will be held to high, measurable standards, and will be responsible for achieving those standards.

REACH enables the Department of Education to ensure that basic needs of our schools are met, system-wide policies are set, and key decisions affecting students are made at the school level. To do this, the Department of Education will be innovative, service-oriented and accountable.

REACH enables educators, students, parents, and community members to achieve enormous and meaningful change. We invite you to join us on this journey and help our children *reach* for the future.



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*Helping Our Children
Reach for the Future*

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**Hawaii State
Department of Education**

School Community Councils (SCC)

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*Helping Our Children
Reach for the Future*

What are School Community Councils?

School Community Councils (SCC) enable shared decision-making among principals, teachers, parents, students, and community members to improve student achievement.

The SCC is a major part of the overall, decision-making structure at each school. It consists of a group of people who are elected by their peers to represent the members of the school community. The primary role of the SCC is to review and evaluate the Standards Implementation Design (SID) Academic and Financial Plan and to ensure that the needs of all students are addressed.

What is the role and responsibility of the School Community Councils?

- Focus on student achievement
- Review and recommend approval of the SID Academic and Financial Plan
- Provide opportunities for discussions on school improvement
- Participate in the selection and evaluation process of principals
- Request waivers to Board of Education policy
- Develop and revise school policies

Who serves on the School Community Councils?

- An equal number of community stakeholders and school staff
- At least one parent, teacher, staff person, and community member – each elected by their peers
- A student representative selected by the student council
- The school principal

How do School Community Councils enhance shared decision-making?

Recent research suggests that shared decision-making will:

- Contribute to an improved school culture
- Encourage a strong, professional community of educators
- Support improved classroom practice and student learning

The Federal government, State of Hawaii, Department of Education, and Board of Education has supported these research findings and developed laws and policies to support the SCC based on the principles that:

- Individuals closest to students should be more involved in making significant decisions affecting the instructional program of the school
- Plans to improve education at the school level receive more support when people understand and/or help to create them
- When families participate in their children's education, including decision-making, their children and the school are more successful

How can I get involved?

- Volunteer to serve on your school's SCC
- Nominate or recruit SCC candidates
- Attend SCC meetings
- Bring your issues or concerns to the SCC
- Keep informed of SCC decisions, agendas, and meeting minutes

What is the Standards Implementation Design Academic and Financial Plan?

The Standards Implementation Design (SID) Academic and Financial Plan is a single school plan to improve student's academic performance. It documents each school's goals, priorities, programs, activities, and the funds needed to accomplish them.

SID Planning

The SID process helps school communities plan and decide which educational programs and services will best help students learn and achieve by:

- Understanding the community and student characteristics that impact student achievement
- Clarifying student and school performance expectations
- Analyzing student and school performance trends and programs
- Identifying priorities for student and school performance
- Developing an academic plan that aligns intervention and resources to support student achievement
- Implementing and monitoring progress throughout the school year
- Evaluating the success of the plan

Academic and Financial Planning

In the fall of each school year, the members of the SCC will participate in the SID Academic and Financial Planning process by:

- Providing the school community with information on student achievement
- Reviewing and evaluating the principal's academic and financial plan
- Providing the principal with recommendations to improve the plan
- Recommending the plan for adoption to the Complex Area Superintendent