**ESSA = Opportunity**

W**Succeeds Act (ESSA)** was

hen the **Every Student**

√ requiring targeted support and

improvement for a student subgroup (like special education students) within a school that is performing poorly year after year, even if the school’s overall population is doing well.

Hawaii’s **ESSA Plan** for how to improve student outcomes is due in Washington, D. C. in March

2017. Anticipating ESSA, the DOE, in partnership with the Board of Education decided to update their joint **Strategic Plan** and extend it. A new

BOE/DOE Strategic Plan was approved this month.

Governor Ige also put together an ESSA Team last Spring and tasked them with engaging

all interested citizens to lay out a **Blueprint for Public Education** that looks ten years down the road. That draft **Blueprint** will be finalized in January 2017. Check out pages 2 and 3 to see what’s inside these promising plans as they relate to students with disabilities.

signed by President Obama this time

last year, he and members of Congress opened the door to major reforms in public education beginning in School Year 2017-18.

**ESSA,** the federal rules for public education, moved away from the unpopular one-size-fits-all

accountability features of the previous law--**No Child Left Behind**--while maintaining a safety net for groups

of students who are not experiencing school success.

Under **ESSA** Hawaii will have more flexibility to design an education

system that provides a high-quality, well-rounded education to all students. Different schools and complexes can have more choice in tailoring supports to meet the unique needs of their students and communities. Some of the other positive features of ESSA include:

√ getting rid of “high needs” groupings (adding the performance scores together for students who are disadvantaged, English learners, or with an IEP), and instead, requiring each subgroup be measured for progress separately;

√ encouraging states to eliminate unnecessary testing by providing money for an audit (examination) of the testing system;

√ providing additional funding for preschool for low income students;

√ removing the federal requirement to tie teacher evaluations to student test scores; and

**WHAT’S INSIDE**

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SPIN Conference Schedule

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**December 2016**

**Volume XXXIII, No. 2**

**SPIN** is co-sponsored by the Disability & Communication Access Board and the Department of Education.

Services include a phone line for information referral and support, a quarterly newsletter, an annual conference and community workshops. SPIN is guided by an Advisory Committee made up of parents, teachers and people with disabilities.

**SPIN**

919 Ala Moana Blvd., # 101

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

PHONE

**586-8126**

Neighbor Islands dial the ex- change below, then 6-8126

Kauai - **274-3141**

Hawai’i - **974-4000**

Maui - **984-2400**

Molokai - **1-800-468-4644**

Lanai - **1-800-468-4644**

FAX

586-8129

E-MAIL

spin@doh.hawaii.gov

WEB

[www.spinhawaii.org](http://www.spinhawaii.org/)

Like us on Facebook

**April**

**ESSA TEAM BLUEPRINT AND BOE/DOE**

**Call to Action**

The passage of ESSA spurred states to rethink priorities in preparing their students for 21st Century living. Governor Ige took a leadership role early on and vowed to make Hawaii a top provider of public education. The Board of Education and Department of Education leadership also seized the opportunity to gather public

**Dec. 2015**

**Jan. 2016**

**April 2016**

**July 2016**

**Dec. 2016**

**Jan 2017**

**2017**

**BOE/DOE**

**begin review & extension of Strategic Plan**

**Strategic Plan Approved**

**& Draft Blueprint released**

**Final Blueprint to be approved by BOE**

**ESSA Plan submitted to the U.S. DOE**

**Governor**

**appoints ESSA Team**

**Obama signs ESSA into law**

**Education Summit**

input on revising its existing strategic plan.

Between the Governor’s Education Summit which drew roughly

1000 attendees, on-line surveys, focus groups, and public meetings by both the Governor’s ESSA Team and the

BOE/DOE, thousands of ideas have been gathered from educators, students, parents, and community members on how to improve and innovate public education. By next spring, the hope is to have one combined state plan that includes a bold vision, goals that set high expectations, and an ESSA implementation plan built on Hawaii’s culture and beliefs, as well as scientifically proven strategies to support students with diverse strengths and needs.

**Universal Early Learning**

The plan aims to **expand access to high quality early childhood education**. That not only reduces the need for more intensive services in Kindergarten and be- yond for many children; it also

creates more opportunities for young children with disabilities to learn in inclusive preschool classrooms.

- - - - - -

For a copy of the **Blueprint** go to: http:// governor.hawaii.gov/essa-team/ and click on Hawai‘i Blueprint - Draft.

**Highlights of the ESSA TEAM Blueprint for Public Education**

**Bold Visions**

A major appeal of the Blueprint for parents of students with disabilities is that it recognizes that many students are currently struggling, and it sets a high priority on ensuring their success. For example, the plan sets the expectation that **learning achievement gaps of special needs students, English language learners and students who live in poverty will begin closing in 2017 and be eliminated in 2020.**

2

**How the Plans Fit Together**

The Governor’s ESSA Team plan takes a long **State ESSA Team Blueprint for**

range view and covers K-12, plus preschool, **Government Public Education**

the workforc**e,** and higher education.

**K-12**

The Strategic Plan focuses on the next few **Education BOE/DOE Joint Strategic** years and is aimed at outcomes for students in **Plan 2017-2020** Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

Each public school will then respond to the **School School Academic/** targets in the Strategic Plan by developing its **Financial Plan** own academic and financial plan.

March

**STRATEGIC PLAN SET A PATH TO SUCCESS**

**Highlights of the ESSA TEAM Blueprint for Public Education (cont.)**

**Equity and Excellence**

Although Hawaii has experienced growth in some of its key indicators of success--like academic achievement and college enrollment after graduation--the Department and the Board recognize that many students are

lagging behind. This updated plan makes a stronger commitment to closing the achievement gap for students with IEPs, students who are English language learners and students who are disadvantaged economically.

**Balanced Assessments and Testing**

The **Blueprint** calls for schools to use a variety of assessments that measure student learning and allow students to show what they have

learned in different ways. Time required for standardized testing will be minimized to allow for more learning time.

**Success Indicators and Targets**

Beginning next school year, progress on the Strategic Plan will be measured in large part on 14 **student success indicators** and whether schools hit the desired targets for improvement. For the indicators below, we have highlighted those that we think will have the largest impact on the success of students with disabilities:

1. Chronic Absenteeism - more than 15 days a year
2. School Climate - students reporting a positive climate
3. Inclusion Rate - % of students in general ed classes 80% or more of the school day
4. Third Grade Literacy - proficiency on SBA
5. Ninth Grade On-Track - promoted to 10th on time
6. Academic Achievement - % of students meeting achievement targets for ELA, math and science
7. Achievement Gap - difference in achievement between high needs & non-high needs students

**Qualified Teachers**

Recognizing the key importance of having highly effective and motivated teachers, the plan sets out to draw the most qualified college students and graduates into the teaching profession, so that all students have dedicated, skilled and qualified teachers by 2020.

**Highlights of the BOE/DOE Strategic Plan**

The recently approved Strategic Plan is an extension

of the existing plan and covers School Years 17-18, 18-19, and 19-20. While it maintains the three main goals of **Student Success, Staff Success** and **Successful Systems of Suppo**rt, it adds new objectives and success indicators with targets.

8.

9.

High School Graduation - a diploma in 4 years

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator -

% of 12 graders who complete a CTE program

**Cultural Values and Outcomes**

Both the **Blueprint** and the **Strategic Plan** adopt the philosophy based on Hawaiian values called **Nā**

**Hopena A‘o** or **HĀ** (Breath) -- a framework of desired outcomes that include belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total well-being and Hawai‘i.

1. College-Going Rates - % enrolled in trade schools,

or 2- or 4- year colleges following graduation

1. Teacher Positions Filled - % as of August 1st
2. Teacher Retention - % of teachers who teach more than five years
3. Repair and Maintenance Backlog - Dollar amount
4. Family & Community Engagement -

- - - - -

For a copy of the Plan go to [http://www.](http://www/) hawaiipublicschools.org/Pages/Home.aspx, and click on Strategic Plan.

3

4

*Super Brothers & Sisters*

Parents who have more than one child are always balancing ways to make each child feel special and appreciated and not left out. If one of those children has special needs, the balance can shift towards that child and the other siblings can feel like they don’t have equal time with their parent. Here are some strategies you might use so everyone in the family feels valued, appreciated and included.

*1) Open 2) Set Aside*

*Communication One-On-One*

*is Key Time*

* **Explain your child’s • Carve out time with each condition in age- of your children.** It could be a

**appropriate and truthful** weekly reading date, a special

**language.** This will help ease movie or time together at the local

worries, answer questions playground. The important thing

like “can I catch it?” and is quality time together so you can explain why their sibling may have to do focus on how amazing all of your children are. some things a little bit different. For tips **• Let siblings explore their own activities** like on discussion strategies based on age, visit sports, music or hobby clubs. Take a class [www.kidshealth.org/en/parents/siblings-](http://www.kidshealth.org/en/parents/siblings-) together or drop them off and wait for them. special-needs.html. Let them know you have time for more than

* **Periodically update information** and give doctor appointments and IEP meetings. opportunities for siblings to ask questions **• Encourage your children to have their** and share feelings. As your children grow **friends over.** Whether it’s a sleepover,

older, they can handle more information. doing homework or just hanging out, make an

* **Practice how to respond to bullying** or effort to invite friends over and help them feel unkind comments with your kids. Try comfortable while they visit.

role playing and brainstorm ways to counter bullies and help educate their fellow students, without putting the burden of being their sole advocate and defender.

Designate safe places at school and safe

adults to go to if things get rough. *3) Nurture Sibling*

* **Set aside time for each sibling to meet**

**with a family counselor.** Having a safe *Bonding*

place to vent frustrations, share worries **• Focus on what their sibling CAN do.** Find

and deal with stress about their brother or common interests for them to explore and set sister, or their parents, can be a relief for time aside for them to be together.

a sib, and can **• Recognize when your children help out** lead to better with your special child, but don’t make it a relationships requirement. Kids want to be helpful, so let and personal them assist with PT and speech goals if they growth. want to, but limit caregiving and don’t let it

fall on any one sibling.

5

*4) Find Supports with Other Kids*

* **Find a support group for your children** to attend. It makes it easier to share with someone who is going through similar circumstances.
* **The Autism Society of Hawaii hosts Sib Shops** throughout the year. Email them at autismhi@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook for announcements.
* **The Sibling Support Project** is a national online program that offers online support, books and listings of local events. Go to [www.siblingsupport.org.](http://www.siblingsupport.org/)
* If you can’t find a group that fits your need or schedule, create one yourself!

*5) Plan For the Future*

* As your children get older, you’ll need to talk

to them about caring for your special child as they become an adult.

* Don’t make assumptions about the amount of responsibility and care your children will take on. Siblings have the right to decide if they will - or will not - be involved in the lives of their adult brother or sister.
* Make sure teen and adult sibs have access to medical or educational records, insurance

cards, doctor contacts, medicine lists and other important information.

References:

* Claycountycollaborative.org/committees/MN- TAFStraining/mntafs/siblings\_01.pdf
* Care.com/c/stories/6649/9-strategies-for-nur- turing-special-siblings/
* Kidshealth.org/en/parents/siblings-spe- cial-needs.html
* Parentcenterhub.org/repository/siblings/

Oahu received nearly 1 million calls to 911 last year and with over 70% of those coming from a cell phone, there is a need for first responders

to get better information when you call for help. Smart 911 is available on Oahu and in 29 states across the country. Its free to sign up, easy to use and is secured by Norton and VeriSign. You can add as much or as little information as you’d like.

* Include all the people in your household into one account. Add names, photos, descriptions and even your animals to your profile.
* Give detailed directions to your home address. You can share photos, gas & electric shut off locations and information on hidden driveways, gates, and floor plans if you choose.
* Share medical conditions like asthma, diabetes or epilepsy with first responders. You can also include medications, allergies and any medical equipment that may be important for them to know.

Visit www.smart911 to sign up for free.

* **Requires a text enabled celluar phone.**
* **Text messages only. No group messages, photos, videos or emojies will be accepted.**
* **Messages must be brief and easily understood.**
* **Text to 9-1-1 services may not be available everywhere and at all times.**
* **Voice call preferred. Text only when you cannot make a call.**

[**www.hawaiitextto911.com**](http://www.hawaiitextto911.com/)

Spotlight on Support

The Community Children’s Council (CCC) serves children and families, including those with disabilities and

mental health needs, through collaboration and partnerships. The staff in the CCC office provide technical and administrative support to 17 separate community councils that hold meetings around the state (see below for schedules). They also gather and share information and bring concerns, both large and small, from families and community groups, to the leadership at the Department of Education at quarterly CCC co-chair meetings. At each monthly CCC meeting, which is led by parent and professional co-chairs, you can hear from and speak to staff from the Department of Education, Department of Health, Family Guidance Centers, Easter Seals, parents, family members and many others. The meetings are a place to bring concerns, to celebrate and share successes

and to grow a network of supports in your community. Staff from the CCC office can also be found on boards and committees like SPIN, the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Footsteps to Transition and many others, sharing perspectives and bringing the community together to work through problems and find solutions. To reach staff at the Community Children’s Council, you can call them at 294-0991 or email steven\_vannatta@hawaiidoe. org. Visit their web page: [www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/SupportForParents/Pages/CCC.aspx](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/SupportForParents/Pages/CCC.aspx)

Community Children’s Council Meeting Dates

East Honolulu

Kalani-Kaimuki-Kaiser Complex Meets 3rd Wednesday, 3:00-4:30 pm Hawaii School for Deaf, Library

***Kauai:***

Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea Complex Meets 3rd Tuesday, 5:00-6:30 pm Hale Opio, 2959 Umi St., Lihue Conference Room

***Lanai:***

Lanai High & Elementary

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 2:30-4:00 pm Lanai High & Elementary, Room G6

West Honolulu

Farrington-McKinley-Roosevelt Meets 1st Tuesday, 5:00-6:30 pm Susannah Wesley Community Center

***Molokai:***

All schools on the island of Molokai Meets 2nd Thursday, 3:00-4:30 pm Home Pumehana

***Oahu:***

Waianae

Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Meets 3rd Thursday, 5:00-6:30 pm

Waianae Satelite City Hall, Conf. Room

Windward

Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Castle-Kahuku Complex

Meets 2nd Tuesday, 5:30-7:00 pm Windward Health Office, Conf. Room

***Hawaii:***

East Hawaii

Kau-Keaau-Pahoa Complex Hilo-Waiakea Complex

Meets 1st Wednesday, 3:00-4:00 pm Environmental Health Service

1582 Kamehameha Ave.

Leeward

Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Campbell-Kapolei Complex

Meets 1st Wednesday, 5:30-7:00 pm State of Hawaii Building

601 Kamokila Blvd., Kapolei

Koolauloa

Hauula-Kaaawa-Kahuku-Laie-Sunset Beach-Kahuku High & Intermediate Meets 4th Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm BYU School of Ed. Room 113

Kau

Kau High-Pahala Ele-Naalehu Ele Meets 3rd Thursday, 12:00-1:00 pm Punaluu Bake Shop Visitor Center

Central District North

Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua Complex Meets 3rd Tuesday, 5:00-6:30 pm Mililani Uka Elem., Room P1

***Maui:***

Balwin-Kekaulike-Maui Complex Meets 1st Thursday, 3:00-4:30 pm Velma McWayne Community Center

Kona

Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena Meets 1st Thursday, 11:00-12:30 pm New Thoughts Center of Hawaii

Central District South

Aiea-Moanalua-Radford Complex Meets 4th Monday, 5:00-6:30 pm Pearl Ridge Elem., Portable 1

Hana

Hana High & Elementary School Meets 2nd Friday, 2:30-4:00 pm Middle School Teacher Workroom

North Hawaii

Honokaa-Kohala-Konawaena Meets 4th Monday, 5:00-6:30 pm Canada France Hawaii, Kamuela

6

“SUPERHEROeS OF SPIN”

31st Annual SPIN Conference

**Saturday April 22, 2017 • UH Manoa Campus Center Ballroom**

**8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

**9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.**

**9:45 a.m. -10:15 a.m.**

**Registration • Networking • Displays (AKA: Hall of Resources) Keynote Presentation in Ballroom (AKA: Headquarters)**

**View Displays in Hall of Resources • Networking**

**EPISODE 1**

**11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

**View Displays in Hall of Resources**

**Buffet Lunch in Ballroom • Awards Presentation**

**EPISODE 2**

**EPISODE 3**

*Workshops are subject to change*

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print clearly

Name Address

City Zip Island

Phone: (h) (w) (cell)

E-mail School/Agency

q q

$25 per parent q $45 for two family members q $25 per college student q $40 per professional Amount Enclosed $ Check or P.O. Number

*Make checks and P.O.s payable to SPIN (Special Parent Information Network).*

**A limited number of Airfare Scholarships are available to Neighbor Island parents. Apply early!**

q I am requesting an airfare scholarship as a Neighbor Island parent/grandparent of a child (infant to 22) with a disability. (There is a maximum of two airfare scholarships per child).

q q q

Please send me an application by q email q postal mail My Airfare Scholarship application is enclosed.

I will send in the application later.

q **I request accommodation(s) due to a disability\*:**

I would like: q materials in an alternate format q a sign language interpreter

q a map of accessible parking **\*Note: Requests must be submitted by April 7, 2017.**

**Send completed form(s) with payment as soon as possible to: SPIN, 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • Fa****x: (808) 586-8129 • Email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov**

**Questions? Call us (808) 586-8126 • Websit**[**e: www.spinhawaii.org**](http://www.spinhawaii.org/)

7

**“I Have Autism; What’s Your Superpower?”**

**“Code Breakers”**

**“Unleash Your Inner Superpower”**

**“Get S.M.A.R.T.”**

**Positive Strategies for Autism**

**Building Speech and Language**

**Overcoming Anxiety and Depression**

**Writing S.M.A.R.T. IEP Goals**

**“Superhero Behavioral Tips”**

**“Dynamic Duos”**

**“Rated Teen to Mature”**

**“Awaken the Force”**

**“Xavier’s School for Gifted Youngsters”**

**“The Justice League”**

**Positive Behavioral Supports**

**Making Friends**

**Sex and Relationships**

**Getting Kids to Join in Their Healthcare**

**Employment: Training**

**& Preparation**

**Handling Disagreements**

**“To Infinity and Beyond”**

**“The Hall of Records”**

**“Transformers”**

**“Super Sibs”**

**“Tiny Superheroes”**

**“Super Gadgets and Tools”**

**Transition to Adulthood**

**Record Keeping Make-n-Take**

**Modifications & Accomodations**

**Sibling Supports**

**Early Intervention Transitions**

**Getting Assistive Tech in the IEP**

**Winter Calendar**

**Access Surf Day at the Beach**

White Plains, Ewa Beach from 9:00 am -

**of Events**

**Hawaii Theater for Youth**

ASL & sensory-friendly performances

“You Me & the Space Between” @ 11:00 am for ages 7+

“Home” @ 11:00 am for ages 3+ [www.htyweb.org](http://www.htyweb.org/) or 839-9885.

**1/7**

**2/4**

1:00 pm. FREE surfing event, for all ages

and abilities. Sign up at [www.accessurf.org/](http://www.accessurf.org/) participant-forms/

**2/4**

**2/18**

**1/13**

**2/10**

**SEAC** - **Special Education Advisory**

**Committee Meeting** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Oahu; 919 Ala Moana Blvd. Call for room number, 586-8126

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**31st Annual SPIN Conference**

8:30 am - 3:30 pm at UH Campus Center Registration forms and airfare scholarships available. Go to [www.spinhawaii.org](http://www.spinhawaii.org/) or call us @ 586-8126.

**4/21**

**1/25**

**Side by Side Parent Support**

Inspire Church, Waikele 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Topic: Dyslexia Tips and Strategies for Parents Email: sidebyside@inspirechurch.tv

Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year

***Special Parent Information Network***

*919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101*

*Honolulu, Hawaii 96814*

***Providing a world of support to parents of children with special needs***