

Hawaii Teacher Standards Board Literacy Specialist Work Group Report

Workgroup members:

- Literacy Certified Teacher from the Field: Ms. Sue Voit, Fellow of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators
- Teacher Preparation Faculty: Dr. Andrea Bartlett, Curriculum Studies Chair, University of Hawaii-Manoa
- Hawaii State Teachers Association Representative: Raymond Rodriguez, Instruction and Professional Development Specialist
- Department of Education Representative: Dr. Stephanie Buelow, Assistant Professor of Reading/Literacy, Institute for Teacher Education, University of Hawaii-Manoa
- Charter School Representative: Ms. Ululani Victor, teacher, Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School

HTSB staff:

Lynn Hammonds, Executive Director
Carolyn Gyuran, Educational Specialist

Meeting dates: November 13 and 25, 2013

Agenda for November 13, 2013, 9:30 am, at HTSB

- Introductions
- Workgroup Charge
- Review of materials and discussion:
 - Definition of Literacy Specialist
 - Literacy Specialist Standards
 - Methods of verifying content expertise for licensure
 - Other requirements
 - Timeline for implementation
- Next steps and assignments for meeting on November 25, 2013
- Adjourn

Agenda for November 25, 2013, 9:30 am, at HTSB

- Overview of discussion from November 13, 2013 meeting
- Sharing and discussion of findings from assignments
- Recommendations:
 - Definition of Literacy Specialist
 - Literacy Specialist Standards
 - Methods of verifying content expertise for licensure
 - Timeline for implementation
- Report to HTSB
- Adjourn

Workgroup Charge:

New Business Item 12-22Rev, approved on February 22, 2013 and revised and April 19, 2013 established a work group regarding the new license field of Literacy Specialist:

The following three fields are adopted but may only be issued to teachers who hold a current, valid Hawaii license, have three years of satisfactory teaching experience and meet any additional requirements to add a new license field:

- Literacy Specialist
- Online Teaching
- Teacher Leader

Upon adoption of these three fields above, the Executive Director will convene a panel for each field to recommend standards and methods of content verification for the Board's review and adoption. Each panel will consist of one representative of each of the following stakeholders:

- Teacher with experience in the field recruited from Hawaii's National Board for Professional Teaching Standards teachers and/or Hawaii Teachers of the Year;
- Teacher preparation faculty with experience in the field recommended by the Chairperson of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC);
- Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) representative recommended by the President of the HSTA;
- Hawaii Department of Education representative recommended by the Superintendent;
- Hawaii Charter Schools representative recommended by the Hawaii Charter Schools Commission Chairperson.

The fields of Literacy Specialist, Online Teaching and Literacy Specialist shall be issued only after the Board has adopted standards and methods of content verification in the field.

This Work Group recommends the following standards and methods of content verification for those Hawaii licensees adding the field to their existing licenses.

Definition of Literacy Specialist:

Literacy Specialists are professionals holding a Literacy Specialist license who meet HTSB adopted standards and whose goal is to improve literacy achievement in their assigned school or district positions. Their responsibilities may include teaching, coaching, and leading school literacy programs. Literacy Specialists may also serve as a resource in reading, writing and oral communication across all contexts and content for educational support personnel, administrators, teachers, and the community; provide professional

development based on historical and current literature and research; work collaboratively with other professionals to build and implement literacy programs for individuals and groups of students; and serve as advocates for all students, particularly those who struggle with literacy.

Adapted from IRA.

The workgroup recommends recognizing the following standards:

- a. International Reading Association (IRA) Standards for Reading Professionals: Reading Specialist/Literacy Coaches; and
- b. International Dyslexia Association (IDA) Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading.

Standards are attached as separate documents.

The Work Group recommends the following methods for Literacy Specialist Verification of Expertise:

1. HTSB approved preparation programs in Literacy Specialist based on IRA or IDA standards which include field experience/internship at the appropriate grade level:
 - a. Post-baccalaureate, master's, doctoral degree, program or certificate at an accredited institution of higher education;
 - b. School district sponsored programs; or
 - c. Nonprofit/private organization sponsored programs; or
2. NBPTS Certification:
 - a. Literacy: Reading-Language Arts:
 - i. Early and Middle Childhood
 - b. English Language Arts:
 - i. Early Adolescence or Adolescence and Young Adulthood

The Work Group recommends the following additional requirements:

1. Possess a Standard or Advanced Hawaii Teaching License
2. Three years teaching experience

The Work Group recommends the following timeline for implementation:
Timeline for implementation:

1. January: presentation of workgroup report to HTSB
2. Once adopted, license field is available
3. Notify licensees, preparation programs, Department of Education, HSTA via memo and website notice
4. Review programs for license field upon request