



Fast Facts

- The Math & Science Workshop is being held at PICS from July 24 -28th
- School Improvement Plans for AY 17-18 are due in the first week of August 2017
- Are you ready? School starts August 9th
- The Language Arts Training June 16-20 was a success!
- Upward Bound & TSP students spent 6 weeks living in the COM-FSM dorms

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2017 Pohnpei Student Friendship Exchange in Japan

Every year, Pohnpei Department of Education and Pohnpei Division of Social Affairs coordinates Student Friendship exchanges by selecting students to participate in the student exchange program to Japan. Crite-



ria used for these selec-

tions are GPAs or higher academic achievements from 6th, 7th and 8th graders from 12 different elementary schools.

This year we had 11 students participate in this program. On June 18th, 2017, these 11 students—including two chaperones—departed from Pohnpei to Japan. On June 20, 2017 a huge welcoming ceremony was hosted by the Japan International Social Af-

fairs Committee, representatives from International Japan Diet and three Ambassadors from the Eastern Pacific region, including FSM's own ambassador to Japan, Mr. John Fritz.



PNI Teacher Forum 2017

This year's teacher forum was held at five sites: PICS, NMHS, MHS, Saladak Elemen-



tary School, and Sekere Elementary School. The theme for this forum was "*Strengthening Our Schools!*" Comprised of teachers and PTA members, discussions were held on both the Pohnpei DOE's pro-

posed restructuring, and primarily on the components necessary to collaboratively develop School Improvement Plans.

School Improvement Plans are due the first week of August 2017.



Our jobs exist for one reason: to serve children

Got a story for *The Peluhs*?

We want to hear from you!

Call us at 320-2103



Nett PTA President Higginio Iriarte et al.

Pohnpei DOE Data Workshop

Held from July 17th to July 21st 2017, the Pohnpei DOE Data Workshop—comprised of all principals and data specialists—was held at both SDA School’s Conference Room & the Pohnpei Department of Education Conference Room.

Among the findings were that data staff universally agree that additional trainings, increased internet speeds, and a local intranet for information

access is necessary for data-based decision making to improve student performance.

In terms of deliverables, the Data Workshop resulted in a uniform report card template for our public schools, increased awareness of student registration items, and a demonstrated increase in understanding on how to use the PDOE’s Data Management software.

Helper Samuel: Your Data Manager

As principals, teachers, students, and families prepare for the new school year, some may be asking: after I collect data (on student attendance, performance, etc.), who do I send it to?

The answer: Helper Samuel. A former Resource Teacher and an expert in data solutions, Helper Samuel is

the Pohnpei Department of Education’s Data Manager. Contact him at hsamuel@pohnpeidoe.fm when you have data-based questions or to submit your school’s data.



Nett Elementary School Gymnasium

Nearly five years ago, Principal Primo Loyola conducted a survey of all of his students in 5th to 8th grade. Among the questions asked: how can we improve Nett Elementary School?

A common answer? Build us a gymnasium. On June 16th, in partnership with the Japanese Embassy, the

forthcoming Nett School Gymnasium groundbreaking ceremony was held.

The lesson, students? We hear you, we support you, and we want you to succeed.

Congratulations to Nett Elementary School!

Accreditation: “Should PDOE Make a 7th Standard?”



The FSM Accreditation Systems & Procedures Manual is our Depart-

Level One schools need more help than Level Four schools ment’s bible for implementing the accreditation process—but teachers and principals have asked: why aren’t PHSET and COMET results included? Why is the process so focused on documentation and less

focused on student outcomes?

In answering those questions, the Pohnpei Department of Education will be introducing its own 7th Standard (“Student Performance”) for Board of Education and school review. Stay tuned for more information.



Turnaround Planning in Mwoakilloa

Have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding FSM Accreditation?

Contact Pressler Martin or Richard Clark at 320-2103 or pmartin@pohnpeidoe.fm or rclark@pohnpeidoe.fm

PDOE’s Student Services Specialist

The Pohnpei Department of Education recognizes that its students deserve the best education possible, and that necessarily must include a number of quality enrichment programs for students,

whether they’re academically gifted, average, or at-risk.

Through this recognition, the Pohnpei Department of Education has brought on board Diopulos Diopulos, who will be developing

programs for our students.

Diopulos Diopulos is a former classroom teacher, and a former coordinator for the GearUp program.

Welcome aboard Diopulos!

Contact Diopulos at diondiop@gmail.com



Policy & Planning Retreat July 30th to August 1st

Pohnpei Department of Education is planning a retreat at the end of July 2017 to meet with all principals and selected PTA members, teachers, students, and stakeholders from organizations as varied as College of Micronesia and National Department of Education to US TRiO pro-

grams and PREL.

Among the items to be discussed at the retreat include identifying components of the Education Act 1999 that may require change under the proposed restructuring plan, as well as a con-

crete and agreed-upon calendar of events and activities for the upcoming academic year of 2017-2018.

Expect transparent, accountable, and responsive updates in our next issue of the Peluhs!



The Peluhs Pohnpei State NMCT Results

By DOE Data Staff

have rounded percentages to the nearest half-percent and numbers to the nearest half (e.g. 15.62% will be seen as 15.50%, 21.4 will be seen as 21.50).

4th Grade Mathematics:

While compared to 2016 our 2017 4th grade math scores were lower, they are slightly higher than 2015. In practice, we have seen the Kitti schools have been the strongest in this area, and that continues to be true. The highest performing students were Elias Jasiann of Sapwalap Elementary School, and Eliou Juda of Rohi Elementary School. Congratulations Elias & Eliou!

6th Grade Mathematics:

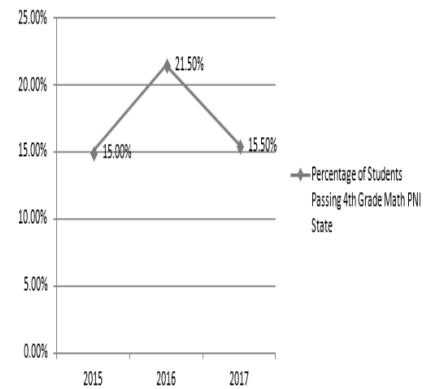
The number of students passing the 6th Grade Math NMCT has increased considerably, and it's worth noting that while systemically the changes are small, at Saladak Elementary School the changes are **profound**. While the average score in the state is 28/60 questions correct, Saladak Elementary School's average was 50/60. Eighteen of the top twenty performers were from Saladak Teacher Jeremy Donre's 6th grade class, with the two highest in the state being Adesha Raymond & Jerody Donre. Congratulations to all for this incredible result, and let's work to make our island's 2018 average at least 50% of questions correct.

The NMCT (National Minimum Competency Test) is a series of Mathematics & Reading Comprehension tests developed by the National Department of Education. Its mandatory for all students in 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th grade in the entire Federated States of Micronesia to take these tests.

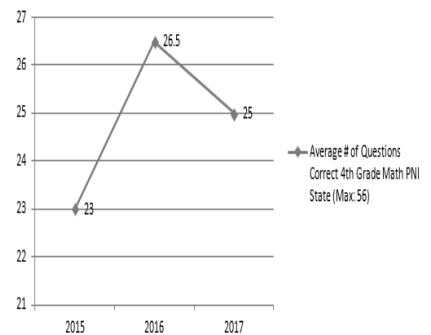
While teachers appreciate the individual item-analysis for identifying where their class is succeeding or requiring assistance, stakeholders such as yourself may appreciate a broad overview to answer the question: how are our kids doing on these tests?

Let's summarize the results for each grade. Be aware that our passing score is 60% of questions correct, and that for this article we

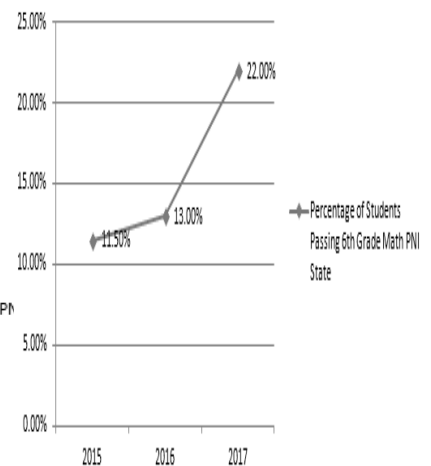
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Math PNI State



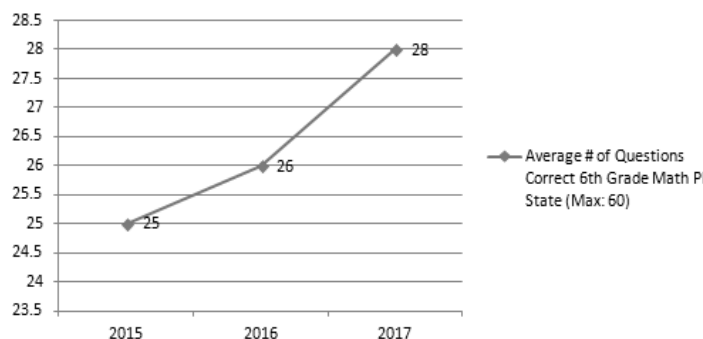
Average # of Questions Correct 4th Grade Math PNI State (Max: 56)



Percentage of Students Passing 6th Grade Math PNI State



Average # of Questions Correct 6th Grade Math PNI State (Max: 60)



Interested in your school's or child's test results? Contact your school for their NMCT Report, or call the Pohnpei Department of Education at 320-2103



The Peluhs Pohnpei State NMCT Results

By DOE Data Staff

8th Grade Mathematics:

With a maximum of 72 items taken over a 60 minute period, the 8th Grade Mathematics NMCT has proven challenging for our students. While scores have improved since 2016, the percentage of students passing is slightly less than 2015, and our average has in remained at 31/72 questions for a couple of years now.

Stakeholders will be interested in knowing that schools that are showing the lowest scores are the schools with Teaching Principals (i.e. a principal who must be a teacher as well as a leader), as well as schools with teachers that must teach multiple grade levels **simultaneously** (e.g. Salapwuk, Nukuoro, Mwoakilloa).

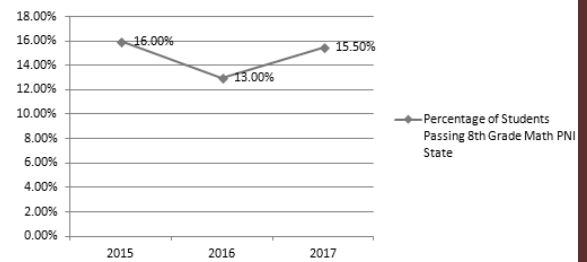
However, it's not all bad news. Once again, Saladak Elementary School has made some profound changes. Their average score on the 8th Grade Math NMCT in 2016 was 39/72; in 2017 it was 52/72. Thirteen of the top twenty performers were from Saladak, with CCA, Seinwar, and SDA rounding out the rest. The top performer in the state was SDA student Ioanis Mahalani. Congratulations Ioanis!

10th Grade Mathematics:

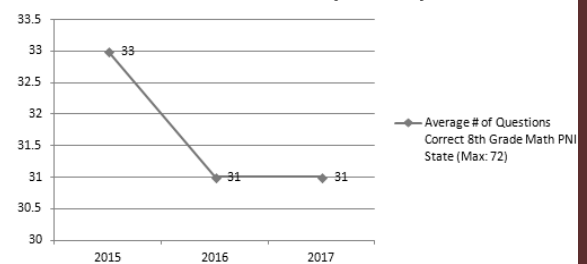
High School math results demonstrate multiple **unique** truths. Our students need help with patterns and algebra, and statistics and probability; those are students' weakest areas. Private schools and/or extracurricular programs such as TSP, GearUp, and Upward Bound show higher results. The highest performing students, for example, were either from Our Lady of Mercy, CCA, or were NMHS students also enrolled in US TriO programs like Upward Bound and TSP.

The highest performing student in the state was Donevan-Chess Hebel from Nanpei Memorial High School and Upward Bound. Congratulations, Donevan!

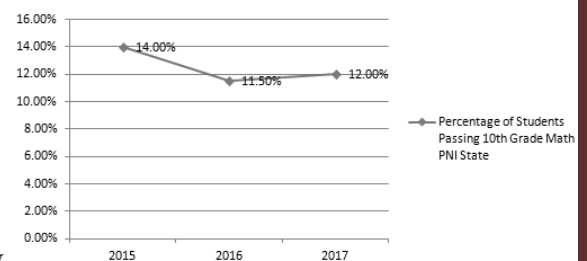
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Math PNI State



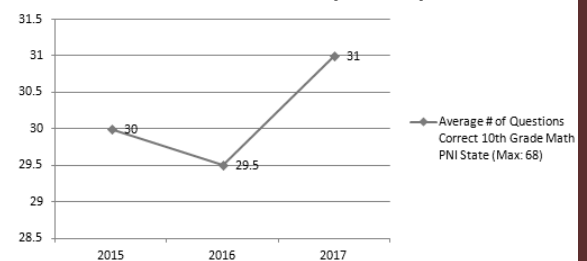
Average # of Questions Correct 8th Grade Math PNI State (Max: 72)



Percentage of Students Passing 10th Grade Math PNI State



Average # of Questions Correct 10th Grade Math PNI State (Max: 68)





The Peluhs Pohnpei State NMCT Results

By DOE Data Staff

6th Grade Reading:

Recovering from a dip in 2016, just under 1/3 students who completed 6th grade last year achieved a passing score (24/40 questions correct) on the 6th Grade Reading NMCT. However, system-wide, our average number of questions correct has remained at 20/40 for several years. In this case, just as important as the average is our range: the lowest score was 01/40, and the highest was 40/40.

While the causes can range from lack of resources to a reported desire for more training on **pedagogy**, solutions the Pohnpei Department of Education is looking into include expanding the number of schools using the Achieve 3000 program (which has helped Nett Elementary School scores), an increased partnership with College of Micronesia, and the possibility of developing resources locally (e.g. Womack & Associates, who are developing textbooks for our Social Studies courses.) Furthermore, while the public schools compete relatively well against the private schools in mathematics, a **disproportionate** amount of passing scores are from the private schools, which include novel reading programs (such as at Pohnpei Catholic School) and the A-Beka Book Curriculum at Calvary Christian Academy.

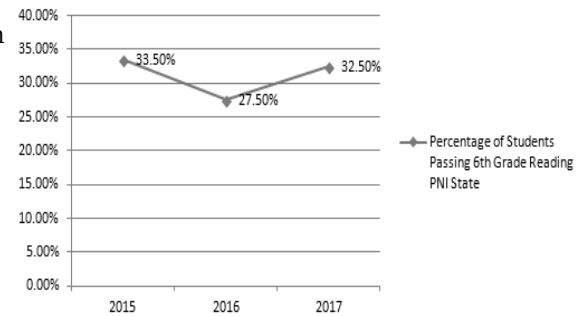
The highest performing students state-wide were Keanvae Adams of Calvary Christian Academy and Simone Montano of SDA. Congratulations Keanvae and Simone!

8th Grade Reading:

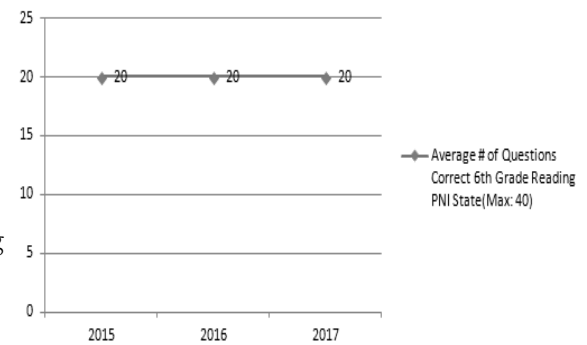
Recovering from a significant dip in 2016 (we're unfortunately not sure of the cause), slightly more than 1/4 students state-wide passed the 8th Grade Reading NMCT in 2017. The average score was a high of 22/40 in 2015, dipping to 19.5/40 in 2016 and 20/40 in 2017. Once more, private schools excel in this area when compared to public schools, e.g. SDA's and CCA's average were 29/40 and PCS' average was 27/40, and our remote outer island public schools have lower than average scores.

The highest performing students state-wide, however, were public school students Leila Jade Lane of Nett Elementary School and Ike Solomon of Sokehs Powe Elementary School. Congratulations Jade & Ike!

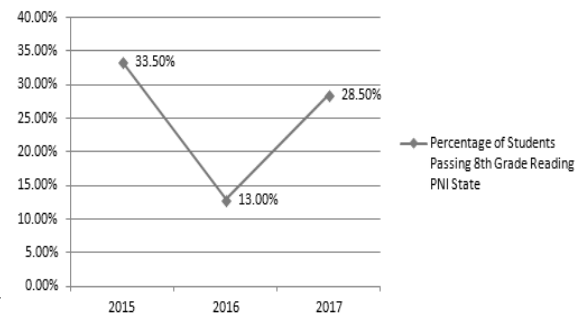
Percentage of Students Passing 6th Grade Reading PNI State



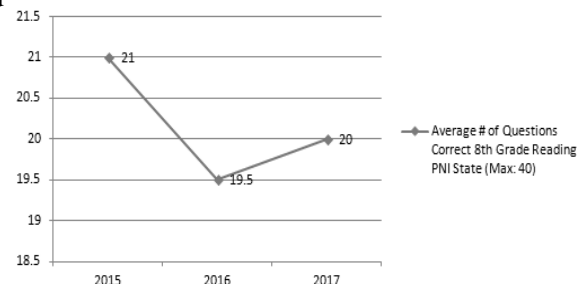
Average # of Questions Correct 6th Grade Reading PNI State (Max: 40)



Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Reading PNI State



Average # of Questions Correct 8th Grade Reading PNI State (Max: 40)





The Peluhs Pohnpei State NMCT Results

By DOE Data Staff

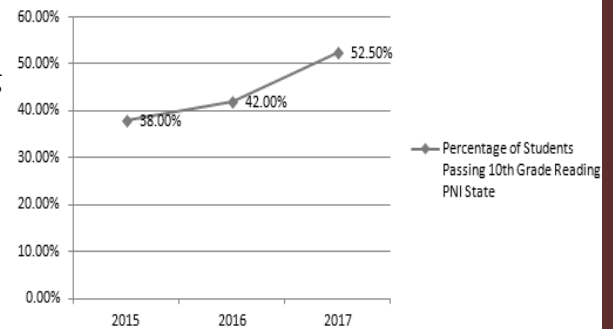
10th Grade Reading:

If 10th Grade Mathematics scores are alarming to both our stakeholders as well as our Department, 10th Grade Reading scores are a worthwhile sign of continued success. From 38% of students passing in 2015, to 42% in 2016, to 52.50% in 2017, and an average score of 24/40 (i.e. the average score is the passing score state-wide), 10th Grade Reading scores have been improving across the state.

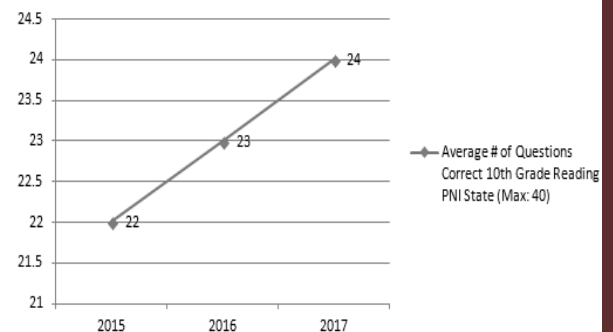
We continue to see similar trends: private school students, on average, perform better than public school students—but public school students, particularly those involved in student activities and the US TRiO programs, receive equally high or higher results.

This year's top performer was Bethany Ehmes of Calvary Christian Academy (CCA). Congratulations, Bethany!

Percentage of Students Passing 10th Grade Reading PNI State



Average # of Questions Correct 10th Grade Reading PNI State (Max: 40)



PDOE Scholarship News

Jackie Pretrick, Pohnpei Department of Education's Scholarship Coordinator, has updates to share with interested stakeholders regarding the status of PDOE Scholarships. As of July 21st 2017, 104 applications have been received for Fall 2017. Of those 104 applications, 16 were incomplete, 15 were not approved, and 73 were approved pending fund allocation.

PDOE Funding for FY 2018—At A Glance

8. Funding Request		
8a. Categories	ESG FY 2018	SEG FY 18
1. Personnel	\$ 6,255,486	\$ 1,199,290
2. Travel	\$36,748	\$54,287
3. Contractual	\$325,659	\$436,579
4. OCE	\$58,536	\$797,587
5. POL	\$78,620	\$52,472
6. Fixed Assets	\$77,975	\$62,388
7. Total	\$ 7,633,024	\$ 2,602,603

Questions, comments, or concerns about PDOE funding and expenditures? Call Pohnpei Department of Education at 320-2103.



The Peluhs Strengthening the PDOE

Public Information



considered by our Board of Education, and—if approved—may eventually require some alterations to the Education Act of 1999.

Among these proposed changes would be the creation of school districts, i.e.

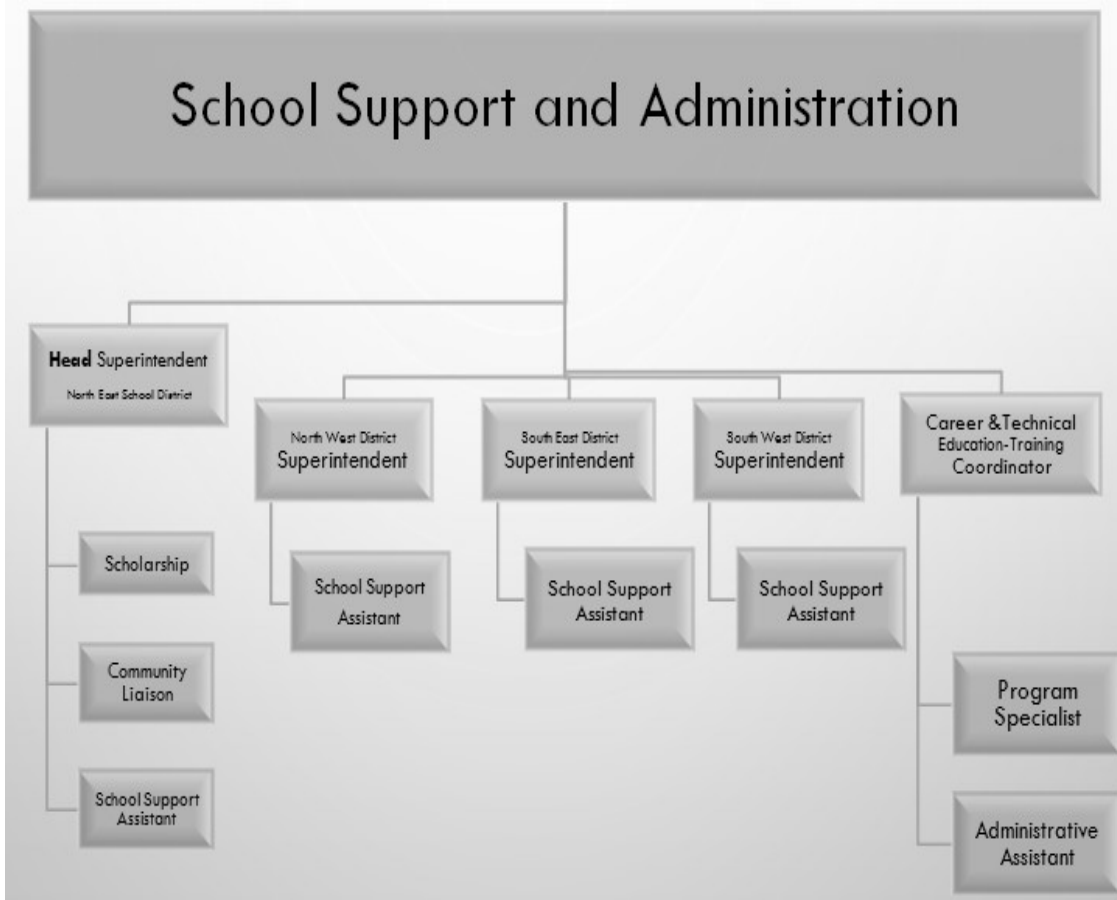
1. NorthEast District—
Nett, U, Outer Islands
2. NorthWest District—
Kolonia & Sokehs
3. SouthEast District—
Madolenihmw

4. SouthWest District—
Kitti

These school districts would then be supported by superintendents, who would be geographically based in their district and support their schools in areas ranging from professional development, supply procurement, school improvement planning and implementation, and more. Below is the flow-chart from the Pohnpei Teacher Forum 2017.



Teacher Forum 2017



In line with the theme of *Strengthening Our Schools!*, the Pohnpei Department of Education is considering some significant changes. These proposed changes are still being



The Peluhs Strengthening the PDOE

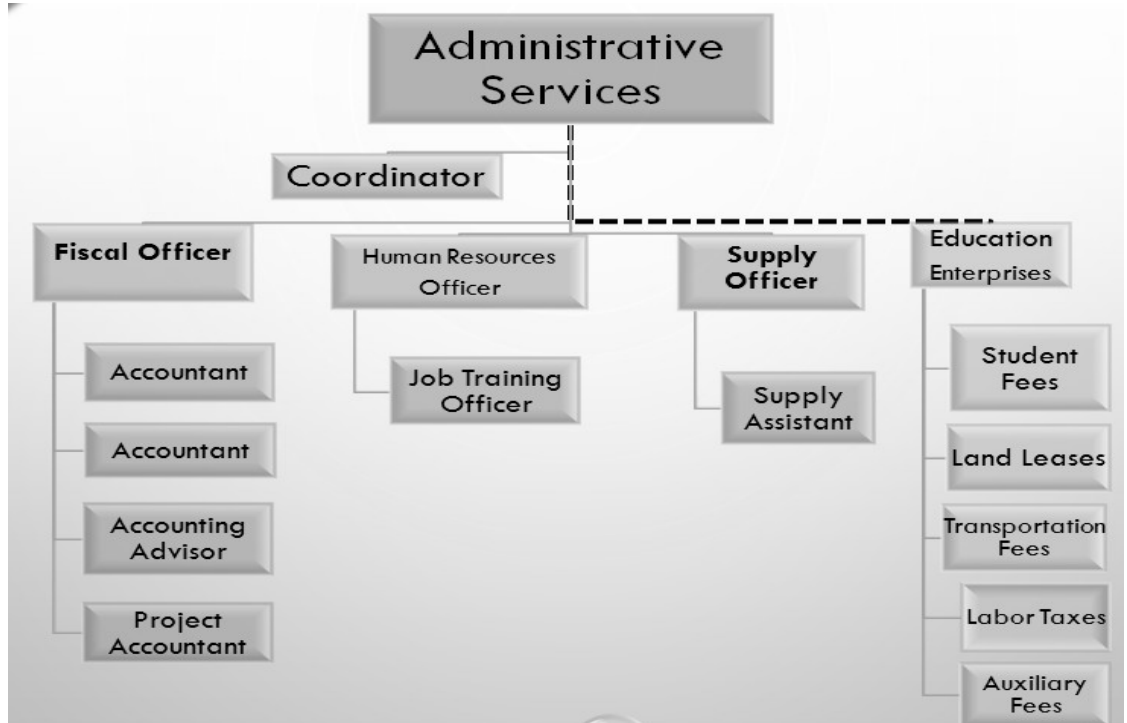
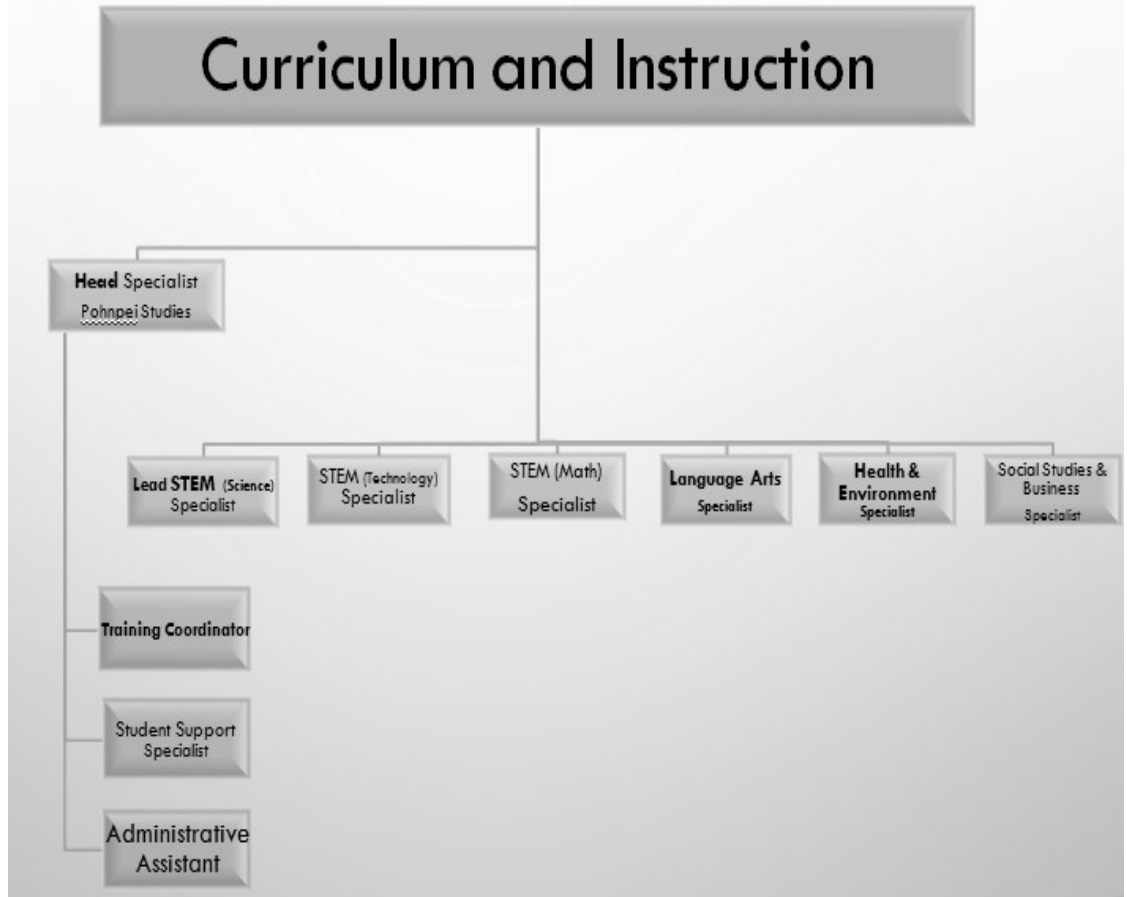
Public Information

In line with the theme of *Strengthening Our Schools!*, the Pohnpei Department of Education is considering some significant changes.

These proposed changes are still being considered by our Board of Education, and—if approved—may eventually require some alterations to the Education Act of 1999.

Among these proposed changes are formally aligning our Teacher Training Coordinator/ Professional Development expert, as well as our new Student Support Specialist, under Curriculum & Instruction. To the right is the flowchart from the Pohnpei Teacher Forum 2017.

Other proposed changes include creating a formalized Office of Administrative Services, which would oversee areas of fiscal responsibility as well as human resource management.





The Peluhs Strengthening the PDOE

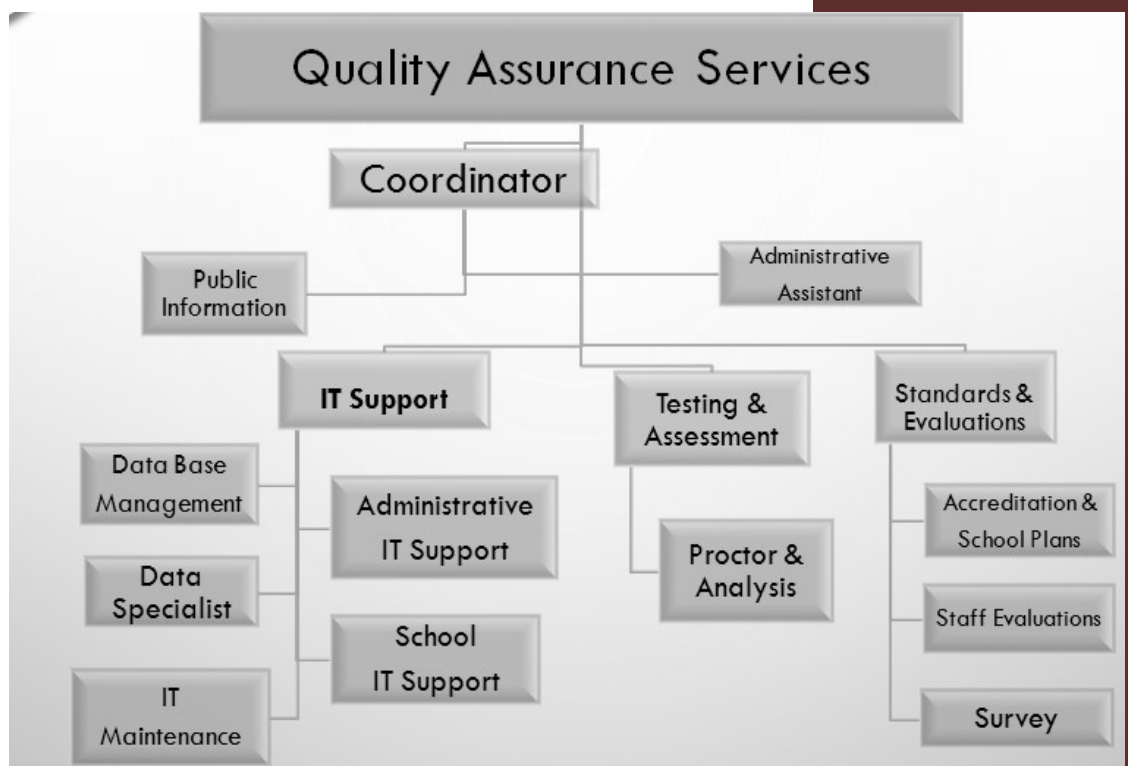
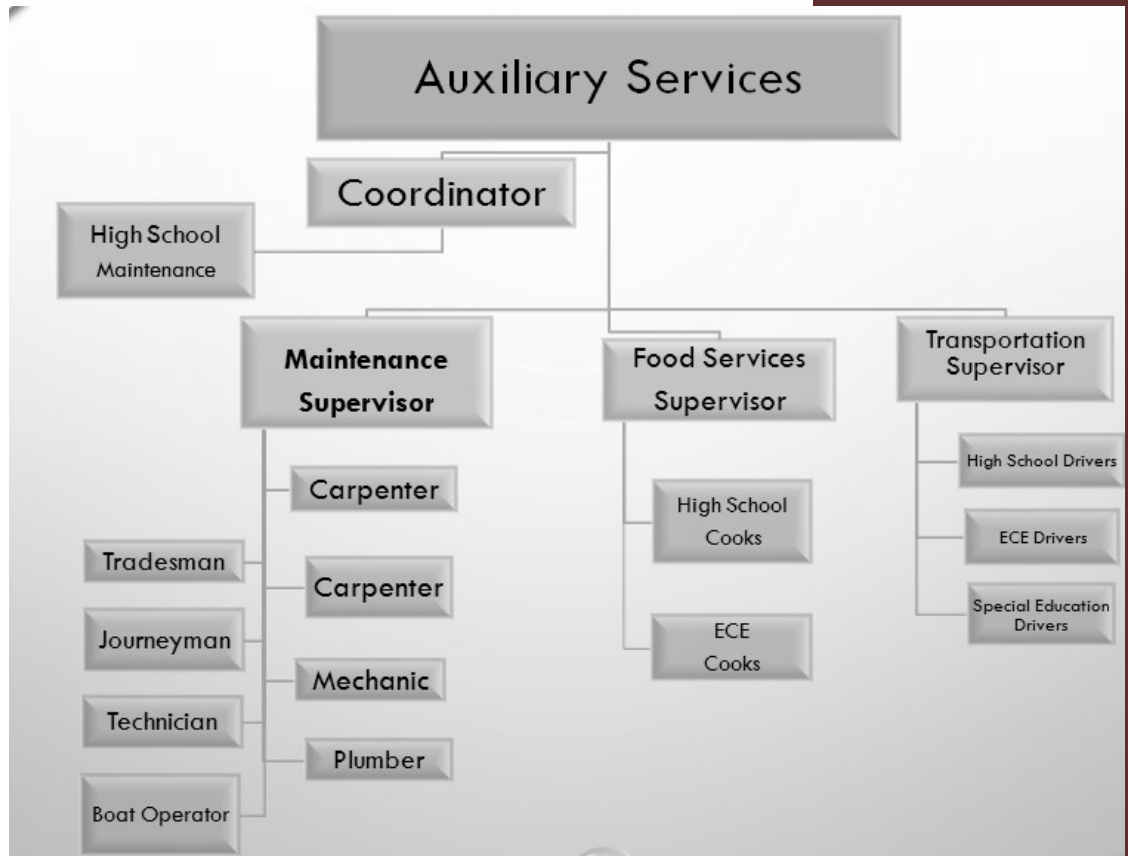
Public Information

In line with the theme of *Strengthening Our Schools!*, the Pohnpei Department of Education is considering some significant changes.

These proposed changes are still being considered by our Board of Education, and—if approved—may eventually require some alterations to the Education Act of 1999.

Among these proposed changes are developing an Office of Auxiliary Services. This would ensure that all maintenance, transportation, and food services are under one broad umbrella. (Currently, each division is responsible for their own maintenance, food, and transportation needs.)

Other proposed changes include creating an Office of Quality Assurance to formally oversee PDOE public information, accreditation processes, standardized testing, data management, and IT infrastructure.





The Peluhs Strengthening the PDOE

Public Information

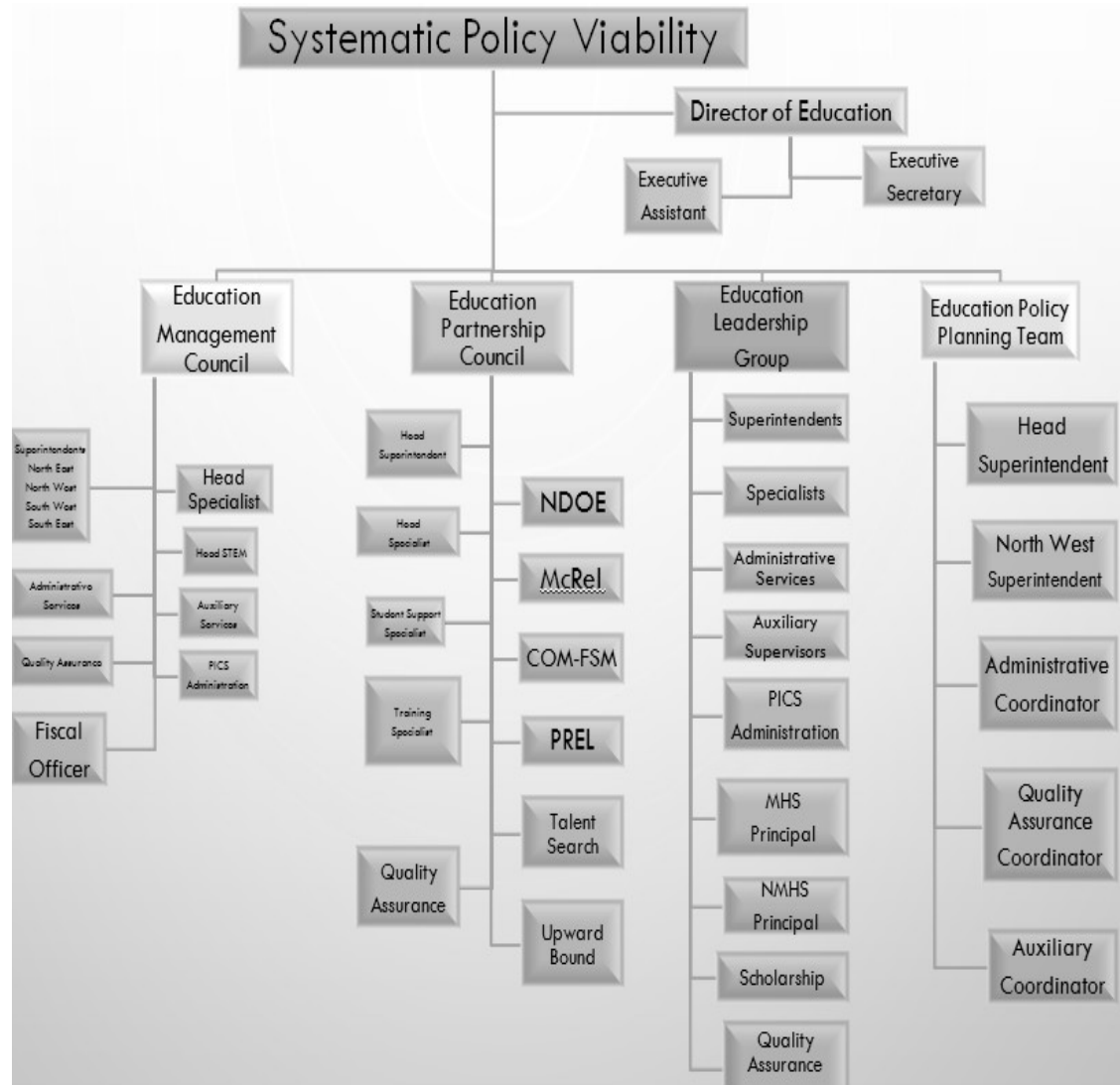
In line with the theme of *Strengthening Our Schools!*, the Pohnpei Department of Education is considering some significant changes.

These proposed changes are still being considered by our Board of Education, and—if approved—may eventually require some alterations to the Education Act of 1999.

Among these proposed changes include developing a series of councils and planning teams with our various stakeholders and partners.

These various councils and teams would, among other roles, help our PDOE live up to its vision statement to be transparent, accountable, and responsive.

Stakeholders can expect the next issue of our Peluhs to discuss the strengthening and restructuring of the Pohnpei Department of Education in further detail, as the finer points of what this will look like are still being developed.



Pohnpei Teacher Forum 2017



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Strengthening Our Schools!

Dear Reader,

Do you know what a stakeholder is? A stakeholder is someone who has a stake—that is, an important interest—in something. Students want to learn; therefore, students have a stake in education. Parents want their children to succeed; therefore, parents have a stake in education. Businesses and Governments want people to make and spend money, something education can help with; therefore, businesses and governments have a stake in education.

Do **you** have a stake in education? Contact the Department of Education Central Office with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have. Everything we do is for our children.

Vocabulary This Issue:

Profound [adjective]: very great, intense

Simultaneously [adverb]: at the same time

Unique [adjective]: one of a kind

Pedagogy [noun]: the method/s of teaching

Disproportionate [adjective]: too large or too small in comparison with something else



Staff Interview

Benjie Phillip is the PDOE's Testing Coordinator.

PELUHS: Do you believe PDOE needs to change?

BENJIE: Yes! I feel it's time that we need change.

PELUHS: Why do you believe the PDOE needs to change?

BENJIE: We need to bring more focus on the needs of our students, and also the needs of our teachers.

The current setup nowadays, it seems like our obligations aren't

balanced. We need our leadership more involved with our schools, our teachers, our students.

PELUHS: What do you think is the definition of success?

BENJIE: Success is satisfaction. When you feel that whatever you're contributing is useful and satisfying to others—that's success to me.

PELUHS: How can the PDOE help our students reach success?

BENJIE: Restructure our department. The department needs to communicate as one, to increase our efforts to support each other—where we're all singing the same song, as a team. Currently, it seems like we're singing very different songs.

Change can be scary only because we're not used to new ideas, but change is what we need when things are not working as they should be.