

Hawai'i State Department of Education: Student Achievement Strategy Summary

SCOPE:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) is committed to successfully educating every student who attends our public schools. The total number of school-age children (ages 5-18) in the State of Hawai'i is approximately 189,000 based on the 2000 Census Data. In the 2010-2011 school year, **over 94% of these students attend public schools** (178,189). To serve these students, Hawai'i has 255 regular schools, 2 special schools, and 31 public charter schools. Of the more than 178,000 students enrolled in public schools the following special categories are recognized:

- Native Hawaiians: 36% (64,000)ⁱ
- Special Education: 10% (18,012)ⁱⁱ
- English Language Learners: 10% (17,806)ⁱⁱⁱ
- Military-based: 8% (14,513)^{iv}
- Economically Disadvantaged: 44% (77,951)^v

STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES:

The State of Hawai'i has several strategic advantages that create a rich learning environment for all students to succeed:

- Single State Agency and Board: Hawai'i is the only State with a single State Education and Local Education Agency structure directed by a Superintendent and single Board of Education. Thus, Hawai'i is well positioned to integrate state wide a standardized Common Educational Agenda with rigorous standards that are aligned from grades K-12 ([K-12 Alignment](#)).
- Uniquely Diverse Population: The students served by HIDOE reflect the State's racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and linguistic diversity. Hawai'i is also the only state in the nation in which indigenous students represent the largest ethnic group in the State public schools. Hawai'i's diversity is a strength that supports an inclusive and equitable culture of learning to ensure successful outcomes for every student ([Educational Equity](#)).
- Island Interdependence: Hawai'i is the most geographically isolated chain of islands on earth. Traditionally in a subsistence economy, the 'ohana system was extraordinarily effective in sustaining generations of families in Hawai'i. Now, 65% of Hawaii's jobs will require post-secondary training or education. With strengthened home, school, and community partnerships, Hawai'i students can graduate and earn a living wage job to support their 'ohana once again. ([Home, School, and Community Partnerships](#)).

Based on these unique advantages, HIDOE demonstrates its commitment to every student who attends our public schools by focusing resources on 3 Core Areas and Key Strategies:

1. Standards-Based Education

We set high expectation levels that are aligned with college and 21st century work expectations and enable students and teachers to demonstrate achievement of these learning outcomes daily.

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Key Strategies:

- Implement learning standards for each grade-level along with matching high-level assessments (*HIDOE adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010*)
- Apply standardized, high-yield, research-based instructional practices to improve learning outcomes
- Effectively use accurate and timely student performance data to inform instruction and make decisions. (*HIDOE launched the Longitudinal Data System (LDS) in 2011*)

2. Highly Effective Teachers and Leaders

We support school leadership, who support teachers who in turn, create a supportive and equitable learning environment to meet the individual needs of our diverse student body.

Key Strategies:

- Recruit and select teachers based on effectiveness rather than qualifications
- Develop mentoring and training opportunities customized to each school's needs
- Use formative assessments to identify early those students who need extra assistance
- Evaluate and compensate teachers based on student performance to standards

3. Preschool through 20 Pipelines:

We seek active involvement among college, industry, government and community partners to provide an integrated educational support system from early childhood to college.

Key Strategies:

- Establish Zones of School Innovations in communities of greatest need to pilot new programs
- Provide students with career and technical learning experiences grounded in a real world context
- Create ongoing and interactive communication with parents and other community members
- Engage volunteers to help by donating services and resources to schools

OBJECTIVES:

The disciplined execution of this strategy will support HIDOE key strategic goals by 2018 to:

- 1) Ensure all students graduate **College and Career Ready** as measured by 90% Graduation Rate
- 2) Sustain our **Diverse School Environment and Culture of Learning** as measured by the Elimination of the Achievement Gap
- 3) Improve continuously as a **Fully Integrated Educational System** with alignment from early childhood to higher education as measured by 62% College Enrollment.

ⁱ Data from KSBE Education Strategic Plan Overview, January 2011

ⁱⁱ Data from Superintendent's 21st Annual Report

ⁱⁱⁱ Data from Superintendent's 21st Annual Report

^{iv} Data from SY2009-2010 Impact Aid submitted by William F. "Pipes" Morrison II, Col, USAF Dep Dir, Manpower, Personnel and Admin.

^v Data from Superintendent's 21st Annual Report