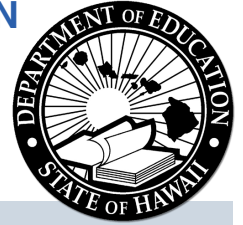


# Pre-kindergarten



FB 2019-2021 CIP REQUEST: \$14.3 MILLION

To ensure equity and excellence for every student, the Department of Education is implementing a school readiness action plan that calls for significantly expanding access to public pre-kindergarten (PreK). A child’s brain grows most rapidly during the first five years of life, and early brain development has a lasting impact on a child’s ability to learn and succeed in school and in life. One of our major statewide student success expectations is to increase the number of students who are reading at or above grade level by the third grade, which makes it all the more critical that we ensure students have a strong foundation of early learning before entering kindergarten. Economic status should not continue to be a barrier to quality early childhood learning in Hawai‘i.

## ACTION PLAN

### 1. Convert existing classrooms.

Use legislative funding to convert 22 to 27 classrooms into dedicated PreK classrooms at the following elementary schools, where there is both demand and space available:

**Honolulu District:** Lanakila EI, Likelike EI, Palolo EI, Pauoa EI, Pu‘uhale EI

**Central District:** ‘Aiea EI, Hale‘iwa EI, Ka‘ala EI, Wahiawa EI

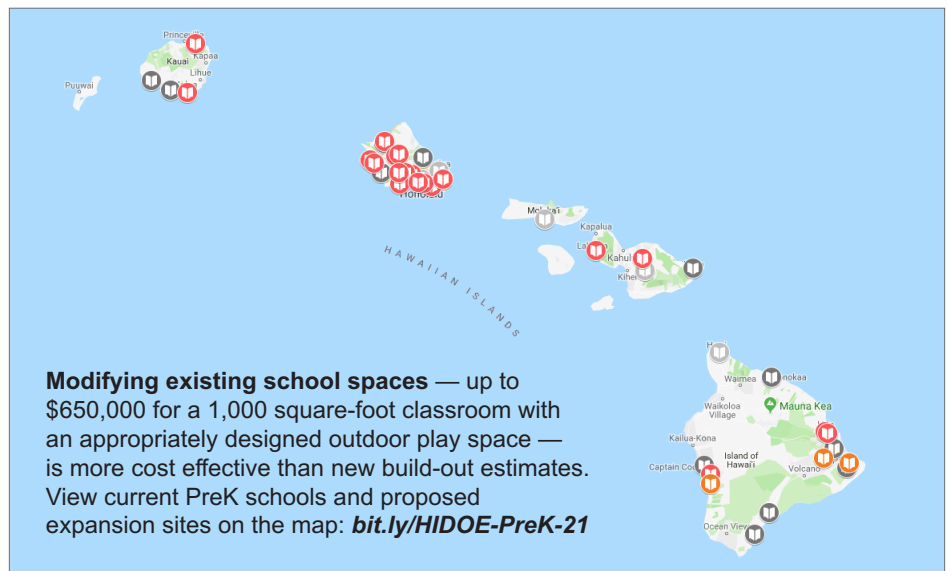
**Leeward District:** Ka‘imiloa EI, Pohakea EI, August Ahrens EI, Lehua EI, Waipahu EI, Makaha EI, Wai‘anae EI

**Windward District:** Waimānalo EI

**Hawai‘i District:** Hilo Union EI, Ho‘okena EI\*, Hōnaunau EI, Keonepoko EI\*, Kapiolani EI, Mountain View EI\*

**Kaua‘i District:** Koloa EI, Kilauea EI

**Maui District:** Nāhi‘ena‘ena EI, Pukalani EI



\* current PreK schools that will grow capacity by adding classrooms

### 2. Leverage high school teacher academies.

Select HIDOE Teacher Academy programs to embed an Early College PreK course of study and establish working model classrooms. Add a PreK lab classroom at the high school site.

### 3. Redesign elementary schools.

Identify elementary-to-middle-school feeder schools that are interested in moving their 6th grade to the intermediate level in order to include a PreK program as part of their elementary school design.

### 4. Develop teacher leaders for early learning.

Establish a teacher incentive program for K-3 HIDOE teachers interested in cross-certification in early childhood to serve as teacher leaders for our PreK expansion.

## 2018-19 School Year

**2,480 students**

are in HIDOE/Charter PreK programs, or in other PreK programs via Head Start.

**13,485 students**

are enrolled into HIDOE and Charter School kindergartens.

**The need for PreK expansion is abundantly clear.** If the public sector is to hold up its end of meeting demand, we need to aggressively scale our public-funded PreK seats to complement private sector capacity.

## Other commitments

- **Parent Engagement:** Connect our PreK teachers within their community for parent education programs; our high school students in HIDOE teacher academies will lead public presentations for parents and business leaders; provide resource materials and strategies that parents can use at home.
- **Partners:** Continue to work closely with Head Start and Charter Schools to complement and support efforts as we grow capacity statewide.
- **Equity & Access:** A collective effort coordinated by the Executive Office on Early Learning between public/private providers will move the state toward a new State of Hawaii *Early Childhood Plan: Our Keiki, Our Future*.