The current health crisis has revamped how we operate as a public school system serving students across the state. As we continue to keep students at the forefront of our response efforts, we want to ensure employees are informed and provide helpful resources for professional and personal well-being along with highlighting bright spots and accomplishments along the way. Please keep an eye out for this weekly digital update on Fridays.

What we accomplished this week

» At the start of this week, schools began rolling out their distance learning plans. For some schools, materials are being made available online. For others, educational packets are being provided for students who do not have technology resources available at home. And many schools are offering a combined approach to meet the needs of students and families. Regardless of the platform or delivery, schools and teachers are committed to ensuring all students are able to participate and engage in remote learning opportunities being provided.

» On Thursday the Board of Education unanimously approved the Department’s request to modify high school graduation and commencement requirements under Board Policy 102-15 for the graduating class of 2020. This approval means the Department will be able to move forward with finalizing a graduation plan that principals, complex area and state leadership have been developing over the past two weeks. The plan recommends utilizing grades from the third quarter, which ended March 13, to determine the final grade for student courses. Additional guidance will be forthcoming early next week.

» In the first week of grab-and-go school meal distribution, 16,000 breakfasts and 30,000 lunches were served to children at 40 school sites. Additional school sites began service this week and more are scheduled to start next week. This week’s Talk Story episode (produced and recorded remotely) features special guest Gov. David Ige to discuss the grab-and-go program and the impact it’s having in the community.
What's in the works

- OCID’s learning resource website for parents and students includes **at-home learning “choice boards”** by grade level for students in pre-kindergarten through high school with enrichment activities aligned to content areas in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. The choice boards are being updated weekly on Wednesdays. Beginning with Week 3, the Department anticipates adding the following content areas: computer science, world languages, fine arts, physical education and health.

- The Department extends a big mahalo to the Hawaii Academy of Science (HAS) for embracing new ways of learning so that this year’s **Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair** could still take place — in a new format — for hundreds of middle and high school students who worked hard on their projects. When guidance around public gatherings was issued, and many other regional and national organizations had to cancel their fairs, HAS and local ed-tech company Student Corner collaborated to move to a virtual event for the 63rd annual science and engineering fair. Students have created fully digital representations of their projects, complete with audio presentations, and judges are currently evaluating the senior division projects. Starting this month finalists will participate in moderated online interviews. [Check out some of the innovative student projects](https://www.ocid.hawaii.gov) on the virtual platform, including an affordable cancer detector and an efficient fuel cell stack that can produce unlimited amounts of power in the form of hydrogen and oxygen gas.

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Important updates and reminders from HIDOE offices

**OCID**

OCID content specialists have been working hard to update the **enrichment learning opportunities** on the Continuity of Education websites for **teachers, parents and students** to access while practicing distance learning. This includes weekly **choice boards** that teachers or parents can integrate into daily activities and lessons for students. Choice boards are now also available for days 6-10. [Sign-up](https://www.ocid.hawaii.gov) to receive notifications when new choice boards are released.

View the latest updates on [OCID SY2019-20 programs and events](https://www.ocid.hawaii.gov) to see the current status of OCID sponsored events.

**OSIP**

As of March 24, all Spring 2020 **ACT testing** has been canceled. The finalized list of make-up testing options will be communicated to test coordinators once available. Student results for the February 25 administration of the ACT will be mailed to students’ homes five to eight weeks after the test date. Students who have ACT accounts may be able to retrieve scores sooner online. Test coordinators or students who require assistance may contact ACT’s customer support at (800) 553-6244 ext. 2800.
OFO is developing protocols for the proper cleaning and disinfection of school facilities for distribution to key school staff. It will include detailed checklists of required actions to be taken at all campuses. Links will be provided to school and complex area leadership when the plan is finalized.

Schools are encouraged to share these guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. If you feel yourself becoming ill, please follow these guidelines.

Beginning with the April 20 pay date for salaried employees, only base pay, teacher salary differentials, and leave without pay will be processed. "Fringe" pay items that include overtime, temporary assignment, night differential, etc. will be processed for pay after the COVID-19 telework arrangement ends.

The Vendor Payment Unit is accepting scanned documents emailed to their respective pre-audit clerk to process payments.

To sign up for direct deposit using a DOE-networked computer, refer to bit.ly/HawaiiPay for a video instruction and the direct deposit worksheet. While under COVID-19 telework arrangements, the paper D-59 will be accepted for employees who are unable to access a DOE-networked computer (refer to Oct. 5, 2018 memo for the form).

View the Digital Device and Application Guidance and Child Internet Safety Resources flyer developed to assist all schools with promoting the safety of our students as they utilize HIDOE-issued digital devices and apps for distance learning.

Technology resources and guidance can be found in the Technology Guidance & Resources During Emergency Situations document posted in ServiceNow and available to HIDOE staff here. This document is updated as revised or new guidance and resources become available so staff are encouraged to check periodically for updates.

Casual hires (part-time, non-salaried employee) have the option to file for unemployment insurance (UI). You may contact the UI office directly or visit the Hawaii Department of Labor website to apply directly for UI and for more information (https://huic claims.hawaii.gov/#/).
FAQs answered by Dr. K.

**Q:** WebEx, Google Hangouts and Zoom are video-conferencing platforms being used by schools. Are there restrictions around which platforms are approved or not approved? Are there student privacy issues to consider?

**A:** As a Department we are using technology in a much more escalated manner than ever before. If a school has acquired a specific tool and has an appropriate contract and data-sharing agreement, that tool would be suitable, according to our Office of Information Technology Services (OITS). Schools using platforms for which they do not have a formal agreement in place should work toward that.

WebEx and Google Suite are provisioned centrally by the Department and are fully compliant with appropriate regulations, according to OITS. All HIDOE employees can create and host WebEx meetings, including casual employees and substitutes. Special education teachers at charter schools also have WebEx access. See here for helpful tips and reference guides for WebEx.

We know a lot of our teachers are comfortable using Zoom. The Department is working to provide guidance to ensure security and protection of FERPA-related (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) data. We are also working with the Hawaii Society for Technology in Education to explore providing on-demand training for our educators on such topics as using video conferencing for IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings and how to run a virtual classroom.

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**Social media highlights**

*Amid this crisis the HIDOE ʻohana has been using social media to connect, inspire, educate and uplift one another and the broader community. Please continue sharing your stories, tips and humor using #HI4PublicEd and #PublicSchoolProud.*

![Keaau El Virtual field trip to fire station](https://example.com/keauu-fire-station)

![Jefferson 3D-printing face shields](https://example.com/jefferson-faceshields)

![A virtual Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair](https://example.com/hawaii-fair)

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**Stay healthy! A roundup of well-being tips, resources and shoutouts**

- **Distance learning: Best practices and delivery** (Hawaii Public Radio, Bytemarks Cafe featuring Leanna Agcaoili, Fern Elementary, and Norman Sales, Farrington High)
- **An open letter to my students with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic** (Hawaii Teacher Voices, by Lindsey Robertson, Roosevelt High)
- **Teaching in extraordinary times** (Proficiency Talks)
- **Astronauts reveal their secrets for coexisting with others in isolation** (Business Insider)
Catch up on Ho‘o‘a‘aheo – inspiring stories from our schools, districts and offices, profiling the students, staff and leaders who are building success and strong school communities, and the community members and organizations that help them do it.

HAWAI’I STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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