The current health crisis has revamped how we operate as a public school system serving students across the state. As students are kept at the forefront of our response efforts, we want to ensure employees are informed. We strive to 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.

What we accomplished this week

» The Department continues to update the HIDOE Guidance for Long-Term School Closures document. Updated guidance is being added this week around students enrolled in dual credit programs with the University of Hawaii. The document is available at http://bit.ly/HIDOEGuidance.

» We worked closely with HSTA, HGEA and the Board of Education to address changes to the current multi-track school calendar for SY 2019-20. The revised multi-track calendar results in the loss of one instructional day across all four tracks but will provide schools with greater opportunity to dedicate additional time to at-risk learners and to allow students to participate in this year’s robust summer learning programs. Multi-track schools will return to their original school calendars for SY 2020-21.

» The Department extends a sincere mahalo to all HIDOE employees for their commitment and flexibility during this crisis. Our school buildings have been closed to students, but the Department remains open. We appreciate all of the hard work that goes into keeping our system up and running to continue serving our students and communities.

» Students and their families participated in Virtual Volunteer Week Hawai’i, an initiative to encourage creative ways to #RespondWithAloha and support the Aloha+ Challenge amid the COVID-19 crisis. The project runs through Saturday. Follow along at #RespondWithAloha, #VolunteerWeekHawaii and #AlohaChallenge.

What's in the works

» Our high schools are finalizing alternative plans to honor their graduates, following health and safety guidelines. Stay tuned for an announcement next week.

» OITS will be offering training sessions on Webex Meetings and Webex Training Center to HIDOE employees. More information and the training schedule can be found on the HIDOE Webex site.

» Grab-and-go school meal sites continue to expand into communities with the greatest need. Sixty-eight sites are currently running with six more starting on Monday. Two of those new locations will be our first non-school sites providing meals. See here for more details.

Important updates and reminders from HIDOE offices
A statewide Credit Recovery Program option has been secured for secondary students who are not meeting proficiency, based on their third-quarter grades. Please refer to the Continuity of Education website for access to the memo and additional registration information.

In addition to the educational programming already available on HIDOE’s Channel 356, OCID curated a special block of shows with dedicated content for ELA, math, science, world languages and social studies between 9-11 a.m. daily. Click here to view the schedule.

Refund checks are being mailed to parents for the unused portions of paid school bus passes. City bus passes for eligible students who attend schools in urban Honolulu have been suspended until further notice. More details here.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for schools are being collected from procurement, donation and government sources for coordinated distribution through OFO.

Facility cleaning and upkeep continues at schools throughout the closure period. Thank you to our maintenance teams for their hard work.

Due to the cancellation of the spring 2020 ACT make-up dates, schools have new make-up options, including vouchers or the selection of alternative make-up test dates on Sept. 22, Oct. 6, and/or Oct. 20. The April 20 memo provides details and due dates for schools to consider when determining the best option for students.

Reminder to educators that pictures, videos or audio recordings of students taken during a virtual classroom activity can be considered an educational record. Educators should not post such pictures or recordings on their personal social media accounts. For questions please contact the Data Governance and Analysis Branch at 784-6060.

HIDOE received approval from the U.S. Department of Education to waive certain fiscal and programmatic requirements of ESSA. This will allow HIDOE additional time to obligate federal ESSA program funds to best address our current educational needs during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

In support of COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) has waived the tuberculosis (TB) clearance requirement for children entering preschool and school (K-12) through May 31. The DOH continues to require TB clearance for new childcare and school employees.

Certification and recertification of eligible students for the Migrant Education Program (MEP) continues uninterrupted. MEP staff have been able to interview more parents by phone than usual since many are at home. Transition to an electronic Certificate of Eligibility is on track and will make the process and record-keeping more efficient. Currently, there are 2,831 certified students.
**OFS**

**Vendor Payments** accepts e-signatures on ATP documents or scanned documents with signature and “COVID-19” designation below the signature line. If emailing e-signed or scanned documents (which includes the ATP and Submittal Checklist) to your pre-audit clerk, please remember to keep all original documents in your office to avoid any duplication of payments.

---

**OITS**

In order to assist with remote learning, Google has temporarily made available **Hangout Meet advanced features** to all G Suite for Education customers through July 1. After that, the features will no longer be available, however, recordings will remain in the meeting owner’s Google Drive. The advanced features have been enabled in HIDOE’s enterprise Google tenant (@k12.hi.us) through Sept. 30, and include:

- Larger meetings for up to 250 participants per call.
- Live streaming for up to 100,000 viewers within domain.
- Record meetings to Google Drive.

---

**OTM**

The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)** provides employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. Read the Department-issued memo [here](#) for additional details on how to make the request. Paid leave form can be accessed [here](#).

These are stressful times. The **Employee Assistance Program** is available to help all Department employees by providing confidential, short-term professional counseling services, free of charge for up to three hours. Additional information is available [here](#).

The Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) has **extended the 2020 Active Employee Open Enrollment**. The open enrollment period will be from April 1 – May 15. Additional information and schedule of informational webinars are available [here](#).

With a focus on establishing solid foundational leadership skills and knowledge, Leadership Institute and PDERI proudly welcome 59 new candidates to the **SY 2020-21 HICISL administrator cohort**. This year’s kickoff begins with a virtual pre-session on April 24-25 and extends to our 10-day summer institute on June 15-26, which will also be held virtually. For more information call 784-5300.
Q: What are the Department's plans for summer programs?

A: The traditional instructional year for school year 2019-20 has been lessened by 46 days for our students due to the pandemic. A robust summer distance learning program is critical in order for the Department to offer summer learning opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency and mastery of subject areas, including current seniors on the cusp of graduating. Expanding our summer programming will also aid the Department and families in overcoming geographic challenges in accessing educational opportunities.

We are working with school leaders to finalize what summer programming will look like for each school community. We continue to assess and develop cost estimates for both credit recovery and expanded educational opportunities for the summer, including:

- School and student technology needs, including digital devices and internet access.
- Teacher training necessary to deliver instruction via distance learning.
- E-school opportunities.
- Learning management system expansion for blended online learning.
- Distance learning support for parents and students.
- CTE-based paid student internships.

The Department intends to earmark any available federal funds for this purpose, including Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.

Under the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund will be awarded to states based on their relative share of ESEA grants for fiscal year 2019. HIDOE anticipates receiving an estimated $43.4 million. The Department must apply for the funds through the U.S. Department of Education. Learn more here.
Stay healthy! A roundup of well-being tips, resources and shoutouts

- The Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders launched its UNFOLD Program this week, offering free online tutoring for public school seniors (CTL Hawaii)

- How to talk to little learners about coronavirus (PBS)

- Things to Do at Home: Learn Something New While You Self-Quarantine (Honolulu Magazine)

- The YMCA Essential Workers Child Care Program is available for school-age children of essential workers during the COVID-19 health crisis Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Leeward YMCA in Waipahu, Windward YMCA and Nu’uanu YMCA. Up to 100% financial assistance is available, based on need. *(Disclaimer: For informational purposes only)*

Social media highlights

Amid this crisis the HIDOE ‘ohana 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.

» April 17 was Purple Up! Day, a show of support for military children and youth for their heroism, sacrifices and resilience! Here’s how some schools celebrated our military keiki.

- Barbers Point Elementary
- Pearl Harbor Elementary
- Ewa Elementary

» Honouliuli Middle School, the new middle school opening in East Kapolei, joined social media this week! Follow @HonouliuliMS on Twitter and Instagram.

Catch up on Ho’oha’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.