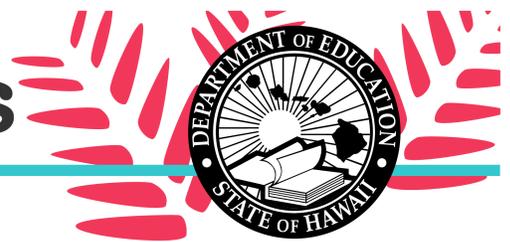


# COVID-19 Updates



Weekly digital newsletter for HIDOE employees

A publication of Ho'oha'aheo

RECAPPING THE WEEK OF MARCH 23

*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



On Monday [teachers returned](#) from the extended spring break and began important planning work remotely via telework. HIDOE's [grab-and-go meal service kicked off](#) with thousands of meals being provided to children at nearly 40 schools statewide (August Ahrens Elementary pictured on the left).

HIDOE leaders and educators had been working diligently toward an anticipated April 7 return date for schools to reopen. However, based on the latest guidance and information from health officials and elected leaders, Superintendent Dr. Christina Kishimoto announced on Tuesday that [HIDOE school facilities will remain closed to students](#) through April 30. That means traditional, in-school instruction is on hold until schools reopen.

In the meantime, critical work is advancing to ensure students are engaged during the extended closure. HIDOE and charter schools will be sending out information about enrichment opportunities, including online resources and instructional packets. Please encourage families to regularly check your school's website and emails for information.

Superintendent Kishimoto [extended](#) her appreciation for each and every one of the Department's 44,000 employees for working in new ways during these unusual and unprecedented times.

## What's in the works

- HIDOE principals and complex area superintendents are leading the discussion and decisions around ensuring our 10,000 eligible high school graduates can earn diplomas amid this extended closure and health crisis. With approval from the Board of Education for a graduation requirement waiver, the administration will present **modification to the 2020 graduation requirements**.
- The Office of Facilities and Operations continues to monitor the volume and demand for free **grab-and-go** meals for children. Three schools will be added starting March 30.

Check this [list of sites](#) for updates.

- For next week's digital newsletter, we will be compiling Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) received from employees and school communities during the emergency closure.

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## Important updates and reminders from HIDOE offices



Parents and caregivers are encouraged to utilize the new [HIDOE continuous learning resource](#) for tips and tools to navigate and support continuous learning for students. This resource includes [at-home learning choice boards](#) separated by grade level and subject for meaningful and engaging educational enrichment. Administrators and teachers have access to an [internal continuous learning resource](#) (k12.hi.us email required for access) for additional guidance and support.



**Grab-and-go school meals** are available free for children age 18 and younger at select campuses statewide. Parents and caregivers who come to pick up a meal must be accompanied by their child(ren). See a complete list of sites and pick up times [here](#). All school facilities will remain closed to students through April 30, in line with the latest state and county guidance.



**Paychecks for employees who do not have direct deposit will be mailed.** For address changes, complete form DOE OTM 300-006 and forward to OTM Employee Records and Transactions Section. To sign up for direct deposit, employees will need to use a computer connected to the DOE network to log into the [Hawaii Information Portal \(HIP\) ESS \(step-by-step instructions\)](#). For payroll or vendor payment questions, submit a ticket at <https://help.hidoe.org> or contact the IT Help Desk at 564-6000.



Employees are reminded to **check your enterprise G-Suite (employeeID@k12.hi.us)** for all official notices and correspondence.



HIDOE's expedited waiver **request to cancel federally required assessments** for the remainder of school year 2019-20 due to COVID-19 impacts was approved by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) [last Friday](#). Public comment on Hawaii's waiver for ESSA standardized testing requirements can be made until April 10 [here](#). The Hawaii Board of Education will be discussing the federal waiver at its [April telemeeting](#).



A [flyer](#) with **information on how school closures impact children with a disability** has been posted to the HIDOE COVID-19 information and updates page. It includes learning resources for use from home, parenting, how to stay safe at home and additional information.



The **Employee Training and Development (ETD) website** is an online resource for employees to access year-round to strengthen workplace skills. During this period of teleworking, ETD remains available with free, online, self-paced videos covering topics including basic computer skills (e.g., [Google Suite Training](#), [Microsoft Excel Training](#)); customer service (e.g., [Customer Service Over the Phone](#)); and training for supervisors (e.g., [Navigating Difficult Conversations](#)). See [course catalogue](#).

## Here are some distance learning resources

- [Internal HIDOE parent continuity of education resource](#)
- [Public-facing HIDOE parent continuity of education resource](#)
- [DOE Channel 356 Television Programming Schedule](#)
- [Hawaii LifeSmarts Resources](#)

## Continuity of Education



CLICK TO VIEW

Catch up on [Ho'oha'aeo](#) – 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.

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*This email was sent to all HIDOE staff.*

