

OFFICE OF Student Support Services



On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) announced school facilities will remain closed to students through April 30, 2020. This decision is based on the latest guidance and information from health officials and elected leaders. This action is taken to support the health and safety of our students, families, and staff.

Traditional in-school instruction is on hold until schools re-open to students. Schools will be sending parents and guardians information about learning and enrichment opportunities that may include online resources and printed materials such as instructional packets.

Information on how school closures impact your child with a disability:

- When all students are provided educational opportunities, the schools must implement, to the greatest extent possible, special education and related services. Schools may not be able to provide all of a child's services in the same manner typically provided.
- Schools must ensure students with disabilities have equal access to the same educational opportunities that are provided to all students. Accommodations and modifications will be provided to the greatest extent possible given the circumstances.
- Schools will be in communication with parents and guardians for the duration of the closure regarding their child's education services.
- To ensure the health and safety of all, direct in-person services will not be provided to students at any location. Related services may be provided via telepractice when it is appropriate to do so.
- When school resumes in its traditional manner, Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Section 504 teams will meet to determine any loss of skills as a result of the extended school closure and the child's need for compensatory education.

In-person meetings cannot be held, so please work closely with your school to hold IEP meetings (i.e. annuals and reevaluations) through alternate means, such as video or audio conference calls.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in prioritizing the health and safety of our school communities. For updated information regarding COVID-19, please visit the HIDOE's website at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

References

Oklahoma State Department of Education:

<https://sde.ok.gov/sites/default/files/FAQS%20FOR%PUBLIC%20SCHOOLS%20-%20COVID-19.pdf>

US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Program:

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/departments-releases-covid-19-idea-related-q/>

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf?utm>

Oregon Department of Education:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/COVID-19-FAQ.aspx>

Other Learning Resources for Use from Home

From Understood – “Stuck at Home? 20 Learning Activities to Keep Kids Busy”:

https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/stuck-at-home-activities?_ul=1*d82dm6*domain_userid*YW1wLW9XUld2R1hicURvMzhTUC05ak1janc

From Understood – “Online Learning: 8 Tips to Get Your Child Ready”:

https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/learning-at-home/homework-study-skills/online-learning-how-to-prepare-child?_ul=1*q8eho9*domain_userid*YW1wLW9XUld2R1hicURvMzhTUC05ak1janc

From Reading Rockets – “When School is Closed: Resources to Keep Kids Learning at Home”:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/when-school-closed-resources-keep-kids-learning-home>

Parenting

From the National Association of School Psychologists – “Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource”:

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

From Psychology Today – “Parenting During COVID-19”:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/little-house-calls/202003/parenting-during-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR0zvJgfYsgQxhRJKf7VkXECuh6q1MIP3ZT6fYBOU6TrIEb5GQJUe8iIyeQ>

From EdNavigator – “How Should Parents Prepare for Coronavirus, School Closures, and Getting Anything Done?”:

<https://www.ednavigator.com/resources/how-should-parents-prepare-for-coronavirus-school-closures-and-getting-anything-done>

How to Stay Safe at Home

From Flatten the curve – COVID 19 – “Flatten the Curve”:

<https://www.flattenthecurve.com/#your-home>

From Yale School of Medicine – “Kids and COVID-19 – What Parents Should Know”:

<https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/22996/>

From Inspired Play – “How to Keep Your Kids Safe During Outdoor Play”:

<https://inspiredplay.com/how-to-keep-your-kids-safe-during-outdoor-play/>

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – “Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use at Home, at Play, and Out and About”:

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/hand-sanitizer-factsheet.pdf>

From Informing Families- “Information and support during COV-19 outbreak”:

<https://informingfamilies.org/covid-resources/>

Additional Information

From Child Trends - Hawaii laws/policies related to how schools should respond to a disease outbreak:

<https://www.childtrends.org/as-covid-19-spreads-most-states-have-laws-that-address-how-schools-should-respond-to-pandemics>