



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Hawaii Revised Statute on Compulsory School Attendance Policy

This attendance policy is in accordance with Hawaii State Law. According to Hawai'i Revised Statute (HRS) 302A-1311, HRS "requires a child who is six years of age and not yet eighteen on or before December 31, of any school year, to attend either a public or private school unless properly excused from school." Also according to HRS 302A-1136, HRS places the responsibility for enforcing compulsory attendance with the Department of Education (DOE). **"Students who are chronic absentees may be referred to Family Court."**

According to School Attendance Procedures, chronic absences are constituted by ten (10) or more consecutive OR cumulative days absent. ALL absences count toward the ten day limit, including but not limited to, excused absences (i.e. illness, doctor's appointments, school suspensions, etc.) and unexcused absences (i.e. vacations, truancy, etc.). If your child is ill for three (3) or more consecutive days, a doctor's note is required. In case of absences, please call the school and inform them. There will be some leeway in the case of an emergency or for medical conditions. Vacations need to be planned around the school schedule, October, December/January, March and June/July.

These laws are in place to insure that all of our children will be able to learn in a consistent environment. As a parent/guardian, you play a critical role in the academic and social success of your children.

The school counselor is available to meet with parents to discuss this policy.

ACT 76 Mandatory Kindergarten

During the 2014 Legislative Session, Act 76 was signed into law, making Kindergarten attendance **MANDATORY**.

Beginning with the school year 2014-2015, any parent, guardian, or other person having the responsibility for, or care of a child who will be five years of age by July 31st of the school year, shall enroll the child in public school kindergarten unless the child is enrolled at a private school or the child's attendance is otherwise exempted under Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 302A-1132.

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Continuous Notice of Non-Discrimination: The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) and its schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion in its programs and activities. Please direct inquiries regarding HIDOE nondiscrimination policies as follows: Beth Schimmelfenning-Director, Rhonda Wong- Compliance, Aaron Oandasan-Title VI, Toby Yamashiro, Title VII, Nicole Isa-Iijima-Title IX, Krysti Sukita-ADA/504. Civil Rights Compliance Branch, Hawaii State Department of Education P.O. Box 2360 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804, (808) 586-3322 or relay CRCB@k12.hi.us