



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAI'AU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents or Guardians,

Our school is dedicated to helping students succeed. We have high expectations for our students in line with the State Strategic Plan and the *Strive HI Performance System*.

By the end of September 2015, the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) will release the final results of the Strive HI Performance System, Hawaii's school accountability and improvement system that replaced components of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

The results will include data on student proficiency in reading, math, and science; student growth in reading and math; elementary chronic absenteeism; 8th and 11th grade ACT results; high school graduation rates; college going rates; and current year achievement gap. As part of the system, the Department also classified schools for recognition, interventions, and support. Based on the upcoming school year 2014-15 results, our school will be or may be classified as a:

- Recognition School Continuous Improvement School
 Focus School Priority School

Our school is also a:

- Title I School Non-Title I School

Attached you will find the Quick Facts on the Strive HI Performance System.

We are committed to achieving our goal of success for every student.

Very truly yours,


Principal

Attachment



1. WHAT IS THE *Strive HI Performance System*?

The *Strive HI Performance System* is Hawaii's new school accountability and improvement system, approved in May 2013 by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) to replace components of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

The *Strive HI Performance System* has three key components:

1. **Strive HI Goals and Annual Targets:** Newly set annual reading, math, science and graduation rate goals through School Year (SY) 2017-18 are aligned to the Strategic Plan, ambitious to reflect our belief that all students can achieve college- and career-readiness, and customized for each school complex to provide them with challenging but attainable targets that reflect their current performance.
2. **Strive HI Index:** The Strive HI Index uses multiple measures of **achievement, growth, readiness and achievement gaps** to understand schools' performance and progress and differentiate schools based on their individual needs. The Index considers the performance of all students as well as performance gaps between two student groups: "High-Needs Students" and "Non-High Needs Students."
3. **Strive HI Steps:** Based on the Index score and additional factors, schools are classified in one of 5 Steps – Recognition, Continuous Improvement, Focus, and Priority – as they strive for continuous improvement. The highest-performing schools will receive recognition, financial awards and administrative flexibility; low-performing schools will receive customized supports based on successful school turnaround efforts.

2. WHAT IS THE SCHOOL DOING TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?

Our school team will review student performance data, determine school needs, and revise school plans to focus our efforts and resources to help our students. Focus and Priority Schools have specific requirements.

3. WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT DOING TO HELP THE SCHOOL MAKE PROGRESS?

The Department is helping our school by:

- Differentiating rewards, supports, interventions, and additional resources based on school need;
- Providing the highest-performing schools with recognition, awards and flexibility;
- Providing schools with supports and interventions based on successful turnaround efforts;
- Prioritizing intense state support for the lowest-performing schools to catalyze significant improvements;
- Providing information and staff training on effective curriculum and instructional strategies; and
- Providing student performance data to guide decisions and support improved school planning.

4. HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN HELPING THE SCHOOL?

As a parent or guardian, you can help the school address raising your child's performance by:

- Participating in parent-school meetings and workshops;
- Supporting your child's good study habits;
- Reviewing your child's homework and test results; and
- Setting goals with your child.