



About us

Hawaii Department of Education

- About
- Introduction
- Board of Education
- Meet the
 - Superintendent
 - Deputy Supt
- Org Charts



The commitment to a quality education for all of Hawaii's children began in the 1800's, when Hawaii's great monarch, King Kamehameha III, established a statewide public school system. Since that time, we have continued the journey in pursuit of excellence and equity in education. Our standards set the course, while students, families, and community fill the sails with expectation as we voyage with the treasure of bright, young minds ready to lead the way to the future.

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Pop Quiz! (or FAQ)...

1. **When did Hawaii first establish its public school system?**

October 15, 1840 -- Founded by King Kamehameha III. The oldest public school system west of the Mississippi.

2. **Between what two ages does state law require children to attend school?**

Ages 6-18. (Kindergarten is not mandatory, but most 5-year-olds attend.)

3. **How many school districts does Hawaii have?**

One statewide district.

4. **What is the total public school enrollment?**

Approximately 180,000 students.

5. **What is the average number of pupils per teacher?**

Overall average (based on teacher allocation) -- 20:1 in K-2, and 26.15:1 for grades 3-12.

6. **How many classroom teachers are in Hawaii's public schools?**

About 13,000.

7. **What is the average teacher's pay?**

[see current salary](#)

Re: DOE Communications Office



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