



August 28, 2013

Dear Lanikai Families,

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*.

On August 19, the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) released the first annual results of the Strive HI Performance System, Hawaii's new school accountability and improvement system that replaces components of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

The results include data on student proficiency in reading, math, and science; student growth in reading and math; chronic absenteeism; 8th and 11th grade ACT results; high school graduation rates; college enrollments; and achievement gaps. As part of the new system, the State also classified schools for rewards, interventions, and support. Based on the school year 2012-13 results, our school has been classified as a:

Recognition School	Top 5% of Schools
⇒ Continuous Improvement School	Majority (75-85%) of Schools
Focus School	Next Lowest (10%) of Schools
Priority School	Lowest 5% of Schools

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 along with additional information that will help understand the new school performance system.

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

NOTE:

Please be reminded of the information we distributed in May 2013 that for school year 2013-2014, NCLB School Choice or Supplemental Educational Services will no longer be provided.

Children currently enrolled in a school as a result of a Geographic Exception using the NCLB Choice reason, he or she is entitled to remain in that school through the highest grade served by the school. However, the Department will not provide mileage reimbursements or transportation options.

Respectfully,

Ed H. Noh
Lanikai School
Director

Attachments:

- Strive HI Quick Facts for Charter Schools
- FAQs by Mr. Noh

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) Lanikai School and the new Strive HI Performance System

1. What is Strive HI?

Strive HI is the newly adopted state performance system that was approved in May 2013. Many states like Hawaii realized that the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) was a system that was not meeting the needs of all students. And under the NCLB Act, requirements for schools were either ineffective, outdated and punitive. Through the Elementary Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver (ESEA), Hawaii was able to implement a system that could ideally address those ineffective components of NCLB.

Strive HI focuses not only on student achievement and performance, but also allows for Student Growth, Readiness and the Achievement Gap. For elementary schools, “Readiness” refers to chronic absenteeism as an indicator for future student success.

2. Does Lanikai School have to participate in the Strive HI Performance System?

Yes, as part of the DOE (Department of Education), all public schools that receive public funding must adhere to certain state requirements. The Charter Schools also fall under the larger umbrella of the BOE (Board of Education). In the past, our students have participated in all state wide assessments and fall under the same sanctions as all public schools.

As a school staff, we embrace all forms of assessments because it gives us another data point to confirm our effectiveness as educators. Historically, Lanikai School has always made great strides in all subject areas tested and we are very proud of our students.

3. How does the new performance system differ from the previous accountability system?

NCLB and AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) is no longer used as a measure for a school’s effectiveness or success. While some components of NCLB will be followed, annual school reports have been changed to reflect our new performance system, Strive HI. (See #1)

4. Why is Lanikai School in “Continuous Improvement” and not a “Recognition” school?

Good question! When the DOE released the Strive HI list and schools that were in the five different categories (Recognition, Continuous Improvement, Focus, Priority and Superintendent’s Zone), Lanikai was in the second tier of schools, Continuous Improvement. In fact, 75-85% of all schools fall into this category. Schools were rated based on the different measures (See #1). Lanikai School scored 251 points on a scale score of 400 points possible. But that is not the whole story.

What the public does not know is that there were two sets of data that were not recorded for ALL Charter Schools. Readiness (chronic absenteeism for elementary schools) and Achievement Gap were surprisingly omitted. Apparently, those data sets were not included because there was inconsistency amongst all Charter Schools. It was surprising not only to me but the whole charter community because the data IS available. Nevertheless, this decision was made at the DOE level with little to no notice to the Charter Schools.

To account for the missing data, the other categories such as Achievement and Growth were adjusted or given different weights using a formula. The formula or rationale has still not been shared to the schools. In essence, we are not being fairly compared with other schools because Charters were applied with a different measure. This is an issue that I have personally brought up to the DOE and Charter Commission. We hope to rectify the situation and finally be measured with the same standard as all other schools. If we were to be measured with the same standards, I am confident that our scale score would be more reflective of how we perform overall as a school.

On Achievement alone, Lanikai students performed once again in the top tier of schools with a Reading proficiency rate of 91% and Math proficiency rate of 86% for 3rd-6th Grade students. (This is an increase from last year!) While we enjoy seeing our school in the company of other high performing schools, the Strive HI index does not necessarily reflect that for this year.

For more information about Strive HI, visit:

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/VisionForSuccess/AdvancingEducation/StriveHIPerformanceSystem/Pages/home.aspx>