

Geographic Exception Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for Geographic Exception (GE)?

First, pick up a GE from your home school. Your home school is usually the elementary school located closest to your residence. We would suggest you call them first to find out if they require any documents to obtain the GE form. They must assign your child a student ID number and sign off on it before it is complete. A self-addressed stamped envelope is required with your GE form.

Do I need to live in Hawaii to obtain a GE form?

Yes, a Hawaii residential address is required to obtain a GE form. Student ID numbers are based off the area of your residence.

We are military and are unable to make the GE deadline. Are there any exceptions?

Unfortunately, there are not any exceptions to the GE deadline. In accordance with the DOE rules, you must have a Hawaii residential address to apply. Your options are to a) find a home in our district, b) apply after the deadline (when you find a home) and be put on the waitlist, or c) attend your home school for the year and apply as a GE to Ka'ōhāo School for the following school year.

Can I drop off the GE form to your school?

Yes, you may hand deliver the GE form to Ka'ōhāo after your home school officials have signed off on it. Your home school can also send it to us via school courier. Either method is acceptable for us, but your home school may have their own policy regarding this.

What is the due date for the GE forms? What if I missed the due date?

GE forms turned in between January 2nd and March 1st will be entered in their grade level lottery. If you missed the March 1st cutoff date, your child will be placed on a waiting list on a first come first served basis after the lottery result applications. If your child is applying for a grade level that does not have a lottery, acceptance is based on space availability. We take GE forms until October 15th of that school year.

Is it a first come first served basis?

If there is a lottery for that grade level, then GEs are accepted according to the lottery number. If there are enough openings in the grade level to not warrant a lottery, then applicants are accepted in the order they are received.

Which grades have a lottery?

Typically, all grades K-6 have a lottery.

When is the lottery held?

The lottery is typically held the 1st Friday in April. You will receive an email in March notifying you of the date. You are not required to attend the lottery. After the lottery, you will receive an email informing you of the number result for your child's application.

Will I know from my lottery result if my child has been accepted?

No, your lottery result only determines the order on the list in which your child will be accepted. You will receive an acceptance letter when a space is available for your child.

Can I apply as a GE to more than one school?

Yes, you are more than welcome to apply as a GE to as many schools as you choose!

What are the chances of my child getting in?

Space availability varies every year, as does how many GEs we are able to accept. There is no way to determine the probability your child will be accepted. The lower grade levels (K-3rd) are more difficult to get in than the upper grades.

What if I am applying two children in different grade levels? Does the acceptance of one guarantee the other?

No, the "sibling preference" as noted in our Enrollment Policy refers to siblings that have been attending Ka'ōhao for a school year. If you are applying two or more children as GEs and one child gets accepted while the other does not, unfortunately we cannot automatically accept the other child. It is your choice to have one child attend for that school year and to try again next year as a GE for the other child.

Can I get a tour of your school before I apply?

Campus tours are conducted throughout the school year. Please contact our Parent Community Network Coordinator, Espie Chapman, at echapman@lanikaielementary.com to reserve a date and time. If you would like a tour during the summer, one of our office staff members can help you.

More questions?

Just call us! (808) 266-7844