



SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs

SPECIAL
PARENT
INFORMATION
NETWORK

December 2016
Volume XXXIII, No. 2

SPIN is co-sponsored by the Disability & Communication Access Board and the Department of Education. Services include a phone line for information referral and support, a quarterly newsletter, an annual conference and community workshops. SPIN is guided by an Advisory Committee made up of parents, teachers and people with disabilities.

SPIN

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814



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586-8126

Neighbor Islands dial the exchange below, then 6-8126

Kauai - **274-3141**
Hawai'i - **974-4000**
Maui - **984-2400**
Molokai - **1-800-468-4644**
Lanai - **1-800-468-4644**



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586-8129



E-MAIL
spin@doh.hawaii.gov



WEB
www.spinhawaii.org



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ESSA = Opportunity

When the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** was signed by President Obama this time last year, he and members of Congress opened the door to major reforms in public education beginning in School Year 2017-18.

ESSA, the federal rules for public education, moved away from the unpopular one-size-fits-all accountability features of the previous law--**No Child Left Behind**--while maintaining a safety net for groups of students who are not experiencing school success.

Under ESSA Hawaii will have more flexibility to design an education system that provides a high-quality, well-rounded education to all students. Different schools and complexes can have more choice in tailoring supports to meet the unique needs of their students and communities. Some of the other positive features of ESSA include:

- ✓ getting rid of "high needs" groupings (adding the performance scores together for students who are disadvantaged, English learners, or with an IEP), and instead, requiring each subgroup be measured for progress separately;
- ✓ encouraging states to eliminate unnecessary testing by providing money for an audit (examination) of the testing system;
- ✓ providing additional funding for preschool for low income students;
- ✓ removing the federal requirement to tie teacher evaluations to student test scores; and

✓ requiring targeted support and improvement for a student subgroup (like special education students) within a school that is performing poorly year after year, even if the school's overall population is doing well.

Hawaii's **ESSA Plan** for how to improve student outcomes is due in Washington, D. C. in March 2017. Anticipating ESSA, the DOE, in partnership with the Board of Education decided to update their joint **Strategic Plan** and extend it. A new

BOE/DOE Strategic Plan was approved this month.

Governor Ige also put together an ESSA Team last Spring and tasked them with engaging

all interested citizens to lay out a **Blueprint for Public Education** that looks ten years down the road. That draft **Blueprint** will be finalized in January 2017. Check out pages 2 and 3 to see what's inside these promising plans as they relate to students with disabilities.



WHAT'S INSIDE

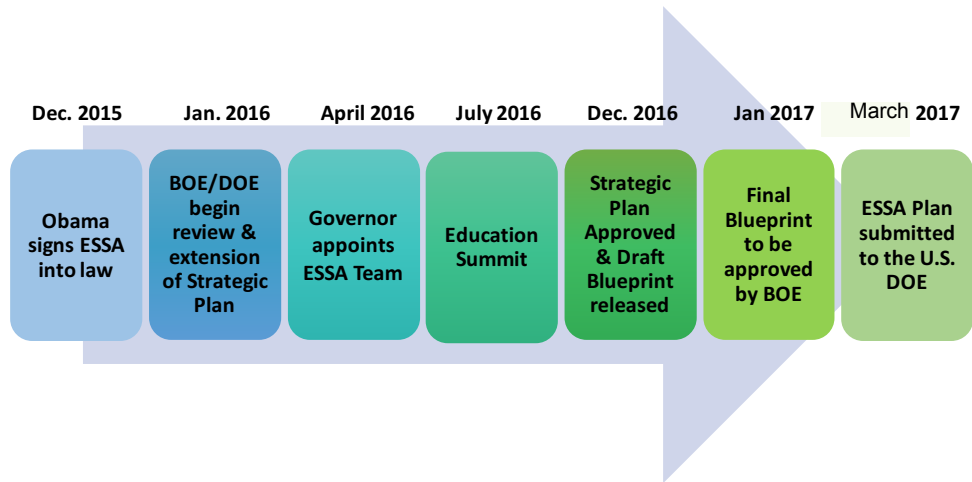
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ESSA TEAM BLUEPRINT AND BOE/DOE

Call to Action

The passage of ESSA spurred states to rethink priorities in preparing their students for 21st Century living. Governor Ige took a leadership role early on and vowed to make Hawaii a top provider of public education. The Board of Education and Department of Education leadership also seized the opportunity to gather public

input on revising its existing strategic plan. Between the Governor’s Education Summit which drew roughly 1000 attendees, on-line surveys, focus groups, and public meetings by both the Governor’s ESSA Team and the BOE/DOE, thousands of ideas have been gathered from educators, students, parents, and community members on how to improve and innovate public education. By next spring, the hope is to have one combined state plan that includes a bold vision, goals that set high expectations, and an ESSA implementation plan built on Hawaii’s culture and beliefs, as well as scientifically proven strategies to support students with diverse strengths and needs.

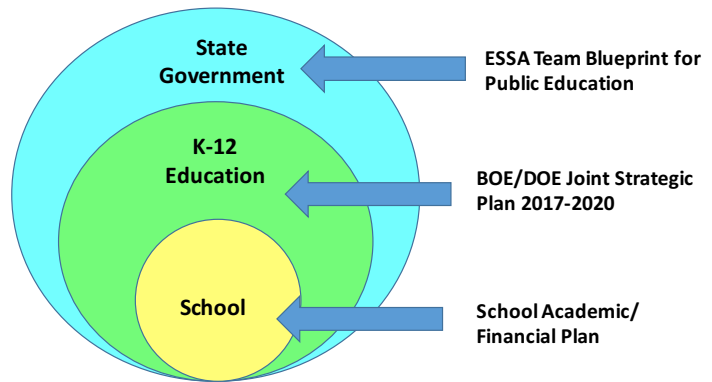


How the Plans Fit Together

The Governor’s ESSA Team plan takes a long range view and covers K-12, plus preschool, the workforce, and higher education.

The Strategic Plan focuses on the next few years and is aimed at outcomes for students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

Each public school will then respond to the targets in the Strategic Plan by developing its own academic and financial plan.



Highlights of the ESSA TEAM Blueprint for Public Education

Bold Visions

A major appeal of the Blueprint for parents of students with disabilities is that it recognizes that many students are currently struggling, and it sets a high priority on ensuring their success. For example, the plan sets the expectation that **learning achievement gaps of special needs students, English language learners and students who live in poverty will begin closing in 2017 and be eliminated in 2020.**

Universal Early Learning

The plan aims to **expand access to high quality early childhood education.** That not only reduces the need for more intensive services in Kindergarten and beyond for many children; it also creates more opportunities for young children with disabilities to learn in inclusive preschool classrooms.



For a copy of the **Blueprint** go to: <http://governor.hawaii.gov/essa-team/> and click on Hawai‘i Blueprint - Draft.

STRATEGIC PLAN SET A PATH TO SUCCESS



Highlights of the ESSA TEAM Blueprint for Public Education (cont.)

Balanced Assessments and Testing

The **Blueprint** calls for schools to use a variety of assessments that measure student learning and allow students to show what they have learned in different ways. Time required for standardized testing will be minimized to allow for more learning time.



Qualified Teachers

Recognizing the key importance of having highly effective and motivated teachers, the plan sets out to draw the most qualified college students and graduates into the teaching profession, so that all students have dedicated, skilled and qualified teachers by 2020.



Highlights of the BOE/DOE Strategic Plan

The recently approved Strategic Plan is an extension of the existing plan and covers School Years 17-18, 18-19, and 19-20. While it maintains the three main goals of **Student Success**, **Staff Success** and **Successful Systems of Support**, it adds new objectives and success indicators with targets.

Cultural Values and Outcomes

Both the **Blueprint** and the **Strategic Plan** adopt the philosophy based on Hawaiian values called **Nā Hopena A‘o** or **HĀ** (Breath) -- a framework of desired outcomes that include belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total well-being and Hawai‘i.



Equity and Excellence

Although Hawaii has experienced growth in some of its key indicators of success--like academic achievement and college enrollment after graduation--the Department and the Board recognize that many students are lagging behind. This updated plan makes a stronger commitment to closing the achievement gap for students with IEPs, students who are English language learners and students who are disadvantaged economically.

Success Indicators and Targets

Beginning next school year, progress on the Strategic Plan will be measured in large part on 14 **student success indicators** and whether schools hit the desired targets for improvement. For the indicators below, we have highlighted those that we think will have the largest impact on the success of students with disabilities:

1. **Chronic Absenteeism** - more than 15 days a year
2. School Climate - students reporting a positive climate
3. **Inclusion Rate** - % of students in general ed classes 80% or more of the school day
4. **Third Grade Literacy** - proficiency on SBA
5. Ninth Grade On-Track - promoted to 10th on time
6. **Academic Achievement** - % of students meeting achievement targets for ELA, math and science
7. **Achievement Gap** - difference in achievement between high needs & non-high needs students
8. High School Graduation - a diploma in 4 years
9. Career & Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator - % of 12 graders who complete a CTE program
10. College-Going Rates - % enrolled in trade schools, or 2- or 4- year colleges following graduation
11. **Teacher Positions Filled** - % as of August 1st
12. **Teacher Retention** - % of teachers who teach more than five years
13. Repair and Maintenance Backlog - Dollar amount
14. **Family & Community Engagement** -



For a copy of the Plan go to <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Pages/Home.aspx>, and click on Strategic Plan.

Super Brothers & Sisters

Parents who have more than one child are always balancing ways to make each child feel special and appreciated and not left out. If one of those children has special needs, the balance can shift towards that child and the other siblings can feel like they don't have equal time with their parent. Here are some strategies you might use so everyone in the family feels valued, appreciated and included.

1) Open Communication is Key

- **Explain your child's condition in age-appropriate and truthful language.** This will help ease worries, answer questions like "can I catch it?" and explain why their sibling may have to do some things a little bit different. For tips on discussion strategies based on age, visit www.kidshealth.org/en/parents/siblings-special-needs.html.
- **Periodically update information** and give opportunities for siblings to ask questions and share feelings. As your children grow older, they can handle more information.
- **Practice how to respond to bullying** or unkind comments with your kids. Try role playing and brainstorm ways to counter bullies and help educate their fellow students, without putting the burden of being their sole advocate and defender. Designate safe places at school and safe adults to go to if things get rough.
- **Set aside time for each sibling to meet with a family counselor.** Having a safe place to vent frustrations, share worries and deal with stress about their brother or sister, or their parents, can be a relief for



a sib, and can lead to better relationships and personal growth.



2) Set Aside One-On-One Time

- **Carve out time with each of your children.** It could be a weekly reading date, a special movie or time together at the local playground. The important thing is quality time together so you can focus on how amazing all of your children are.
- **Let siblings explore their own activities** like sports, music or hobby clubs. Take a class together or drop them off and wait for them. Let them know you have time for more than doctor appointments and IEP meetings.
- **Encourage your children to have their friends over.** Whether it's a sleepover, doing homework or just hanging out, make an effort to invite friends over and help them feel comfortable while they visit.



3) Nurture Sibling Bonding

- **Focus on what their sibling CAN do.** Find common interests for them to explore and set time aside for them to be together.
- **Recognize when your children help out** with your special child, but don't make it a requirement. Kids want to be helpful, so let them assist with PT and speech goals if they want to, but limit caregiving and don't let it fall on any one sibling.

4) Find Supports with Other Kids

- Find a support group for your children to attend. It makes it easier to share with someone who is going through similar circumstances.
- **The Autism Society of Hawaii hosts Sib Shops** throughout the year. Email them at autismhi@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook for announcements.
- **The Sibling Support Project** is a national online program that offers online support, books and listings of local events. Go to www.siblingsupport.org.
- If you can't find a group that fits your need or schedule, create one yourself!



5) Plan for the Future

- As your children get older, you'll need to talk to them about caring for your special child as they become an adult.
- Don't make assumptions about the amount of responsibility and care your children will take on. Siblings have the right to decide if they will - or will not - be involved in the lives of their adult brother or sister.
- Make sure teen and adult sibs have access to medical or educational records, insurance cards, doctor contacts, medicine lists and other important information.

References:

- Claycountycollaborative.org/committees/MN-TAFStraining/mntafs/siblings_01.pdf
- Care.com/c/stories/6649/9-strategies-for-nurturing-special-siblings/
- Kidshealth.org/en/parents/siblings-special-needs.html
- Parentcenterhub.org/repository/siblings/



Smart911™

Oahu received nearly 1 million calls to 911 last year and with over 70% of those coming from a cell phone, there is a need for first responders to get better information when you call for help. Smart 911 is available on Oahu and in 29 states across the country. Its free to sign up, easy to use and is secured by Norton and VeriSign. You can add as much or as little information as you'd like.



- Include all the people in your household into one account. Add names, photos, descriptions and even your animals to your profile.
- Give detailed directions to your home address. You can share photos, gas & electric shut off locations and information on hidden driveways, gates, and floor plans if you choose.
- Share medical conditions like asthma, diabetes or epilepsy with first responders. You can also include medications, allergies and any medical equipment that may be important for them to know.

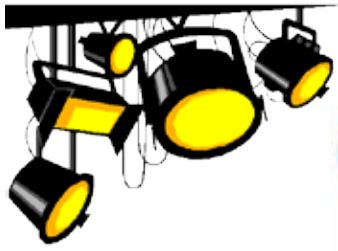
Visit www.smart911 to sign up for free.

STATE OF HAWAII
911 CALL IF YOU CAN
TEXT IF YOU CAN'T

- Requires a text enabled cellular phone.
- Text messages only. No group messages, photos, videos or emojis will be accepted.
- Messages must be brief and easily understood.
- Text to 9-1-1 services may not be available everywhere and at all times.
- Voice call preferred. Text only when you cannot make a call.

www.hawaiiextto911.com





Spotlight on Support

Community Children's Council



The Community Children's Council (CCC) serves children and families, including those with disabilities and mental health needs, through collaboration and partnerships. The staff in the CCC office provide technical and administrative support to 17 separate community councils that hold meetings around the state (see below for schedules). They also gather and share information and bring concerns, both large and small, from families and community groups, to the leadership at the Department of Education at quarterly CCC co-chair meetings. At each monthly CCC meeting, which is led by parent and professional co-chairs, you can hear from and speak to staff from the Department of Education, Department of Health, Family Guidance Centers, Easter Seals, parents, family members and many others. The meetings are a place to bring concerns, to celebrate and share successes and to grow a network of supports in your community. Staff from the CCC office can also be found on boards and committees like SPIN, the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Footsteps to Transition and many others, sharing perspectives and bringing the community together to work through problems and find solutions. To reach staff at the Community Children's Council, you can call them at 294-0991 or email steven_vannatta@hawaiiidoe.org. Visit their web page: www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/SupportForParents/Pages/CCC.aspx

Community Children's Council Meeting Dates

Kauai:

Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea Complex
Meets 3rd Tuesday, 5:00-6:30 pm
Hale Opiu, 2959 Umi St., Lihue
Conference Room



Oahu:

Waianae
Nanakuli-Waianae Complex
Meets 3rd Thursday, 5:00-6:30 pm
Waianae Satellite City Hall, Conf. Room

Leeward

Pearl City-Waipahu Complex
Campbell-Kapolei Complex
Meets 1st Wednesday, 5:30-7:00 pm
State of Hawaii Building
601 Kamokila Blvd., Kapolei

Central District North

Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua Complex
Meets 3rd Tuesday, 5:00-6:30 pm
Mililani Uka Elem., Room P1

Central District South

Aiea-Moanalua-Radford Complex
Meets 4th Monday, 5:00-6:30 pm
Pearl Ridge Elem., Portable 1



East Honolulu

Kalani-Kaimuki-Kaiser Complex
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 3:00-4:30 pm
Hawaii School for Deaf, Library

West Honolulu

Farrington-McKinley-Roosevelt
Meets 1st Tuesday, 5:00-6:30 pm
Susannah Wesley Community Center

Windward

Kailua-Kalaheo Complex
Castle-Kahuku Complex
Meets 2nd Tuesday, 5:30-7:00 pm
Windward Health Office, Conf. Room

Koolauloa

Hauula-Kaaawa-Kahuku-Laie-Sunset
Beach-Kahuku High & Intermediate
Meets 4th Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm
BYU School of Ed. Room 113

Maui:

Balwin-Kekaulike-Maui Complex
Meets 1st Thursday, 3:00-4:30 pm
Velma McWayne Community Center

Hana

Hana High & Elementary School
Meets 2nd Friday, 2:30-4:00 pm
Middle School Teacher Workroom

Lanai:

Lanai High & Elementary
Meets 3rd Tuesday, 2:30-4:00 pm
Lanai High & Elementary, Room G6

Molokai:

All schools on the island of Molokai
Meets 2nd Thursday, 3:00-4:30 pm
Home Pumehana



Hawaii:

East Hawaii
Kau-Keaau-Pahoa Complex
Hilo-Waiakea Complex
Meets 1st Wednesday, 3:00-4:00 pm
Environmental Health Service
1582 Kamehameha Ave.

Kau

Kau High-Pahala Ele-Naalehu Ele
Meets 3rd Thursday, 12:00-1:00 pm
Punaluu Bake Shop Visitor Center

Kona

Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena
Meets 1st Thursday, 11:00-12:30 pm
New Thoughts Center of Hawaii

North Hawaii

Honokaa-Kohala-Konawaena
Meets 4th Monday, 5:00-6:30 pm
Canada France Hawaii, Kamuela



"SUPERHEROES OF SPIN"
 31st Annual SPIN Conference
 Saturday April 22, 2017 • UH Manoa Campus Center Ballroom



8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration • Networking • Displays (AKA: Hall of Resources)
 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Keynote Presentation in Ballroom (AKA: Headquarters)
 9:45 a.m. -10:15 a.m. View Displays in Hall of Resources • Networking

EPISODE 1

"To Infinity and Beyond"	"The Hall of Records"	"Transformers"	"Super Sibs"	"Tiny Superheroes"	"Super Gadgets and Tools"
Transition to Adulthood	Record Keeping Make-n-Take	Modifications & Accomodations	Sibling Supports	Early Intervention Transitions	Getting Assistive Tech in the IEP

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. View Displays in Hall of Resources
 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch in Ballroom • Awards Presentation

EPISODE 2

"Superhero Behavioral Tips"	"Dynamic Duos"	"Rated Teen to Mature"	"Awaken the Force"	"Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters"	"The Justice League"
Positive Behavioral Supports	Making Friends	Sex and Relationships	Getting Kids to Join in Their Healthcare	Employment: Training & Preparation	Handling Disagreements

EPISODE 3

"I Have Autism; What's Your Superpower?"	"Code Breakers"	"Unleash Your Inner Superpower"	"Get S.M.A.R.T."
Positive Strategies for Autism	Building Speech and Language	Overcoming Anxiety and Depression	Writing S.M.A.R.T. IEP Goals

Workshops are subject to change



REGISTRATION FORM



Please print clearly

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____ Island _____
 Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____ (cell) _____
 E-mail _____ School/Agency _____

- \$25 per parent \$45 for two family members \$25 per college student \$40 per professional
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check or P.O. Number _____
Make checks and P.O.s payable to SPIN (Special Parent Information Network).

A limited number of Airfare Scholarships are available to Neighbor Island parents. Apply early!

- I am requesting an airfare scholarship as a Neighbor Island parent/grandparent of a child (infant to 22) with a disability. (There is a maximum of two airfare scholarships per child).
 Please send me an application by email postal mail
 My Airfare Scholarship application is enclosed.
 I will send in the application later.



I request accommodation(s) due to a disability*:

- I would like: materials in an alternate format a sign language interpreter
 a map of accessible parking ***Note: Requests must be submitted by April 7, 2017.**

**Send completed form(s) with payment as soon as possible to: SPIN, 919 Ala Moana Blvd.,
 Room 101, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • Fax: (808) 586-8129 • Email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov
 Questions? Call us (808) 586-8126 • Website: www.spinhawaii.org**

Winter Calendar of Events

1/7 Access Surf Day at the Beach
2/4 White Plains, Ewa Beach from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. FREE surfing event, for all ages and abilities. Sign up at www.accessurf.org/participant-forms/

1/13 SEAC - Special Education Advisory
2/10 Committee Meeting 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Oahu; 919 Ala Moana Blvd. Call for room number, 586-8126

1/25 Side by Side Parent Support
Inspire Church, Waikēle 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Topic: Dyslexia Tips and Strategies for Parents
Email: sidebyside@inspirechurch.tv

Hawaii Theater for Youth
ASL & sensory-friendly performances
2/4 “You Me & the Space Between” @ 11:00 am for ages 7+
2/18 “Home” @ 11:00 am for ages 3+
www.htyweb.org or 839-9885.

SAVE THE DATE!
4/21 31st Annual SPIN Conference
8:30 am - 3:30 pm at UH Campus Center
Registration forms and airfare scholarships available. Go to www.spinhawaii.org or call us @ 586-8126.



Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year



Mele Kalikimaka



Special Parent Information Network
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Providing a world of support to parents of children with special needs