



# Private to Public School Transitions for Students with Disabilities: What Parents Need to Know

If you suspect your child has a disability that is impacting their learning:

- ▶ The Hawaii Department of Education is required to actively search for students, including students in private schools, who may be in need of special education and related services due to a disability.
- ▶ Parents can request an evaluation from their child's *home school* (the public school serving children in your neighborhood). The school will notify the parent within 15 days whether they plan to assess the student. Once a parent consents to the evaluation, the school has 60 days to determine eligibility.

If your child has been diagnosed as having a disability:

- ▶ Parents can request written documentation from the private school on accommodations or services (if any) provided by the school. Your child's doctor may also be able to provide documentation of the disability. This information can be shared with the public school, in determining whether or not further evaluation is needed.
- ▶ In order to become eligible for special education or 504 accommodations, the student's disability must adversely affect the student's involvement and progress in general education.

If your child has a current IEP (Individualized Education Program) or 504 Plan:

- ▶ Some private schools provide specially designed instruction and related services, while others may only offer reasonable accommodations in the general education classroom.
- ▶ Request a copy of the IEP/504 Plan and present it to the home school.
- ▶ The home school is obligated to provide comparable services to those outlined in the current IEP or 504 Plan until the school adopts the current IEP/504 Plan or develops their own through additional assessments.



Scan the QR Code at the left for a copy of the **Hawai'i Chapter of the International Dyslexia Association (HIDA) Checklist for Students with Learning Disabilities Transferring to Public School**. It outlines actions needed to exit the private school as well as tips on enrolling in a Hawai'i public school. Contact **HIDA** at **808-538-7007** or **info-hida@dyslexia-hawaii.org** or **<https://hi.dyslexia.org>**.

Parent-to-parent resources: **Leadership in Disability and Achievement of Hawaii (LDAH)** at 808-536-9864 can lead parents of students with disabilities or suspected of having a disability through the transition process.



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**The Special Parent Information Network (SPIN)** at 808-586-8126 provides information, referrals and support in understanding the special education process and finding community resources.