If parent(s)/legal guardian(s) do not agree with the identification, evaluation, program, placement, or FAPE, what can they do?

Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and students are protected by procedural safeguards and will be informed of their rights at various points throughout the IEP process. If parent(s)/legal guardian(s) do not agree with the identification, evaluation, program, placement or FAPE, they may employ a variety of resolution practices. These practices include: mediation, facilitation, written complaint, or a due process impartial hearing.

For more information, please visit:

https://bit.ly/3K5inng

Or call the following offices:

Statewide	808-305-9750
O'ahu	
Honolulu	784-6680 or 784-6690
Central	784-5200
Leeward	675-0335 or 675-0384
Windward	784-5940
Hawai'i	
East HI	313-6600
North HI	775-8895
South HI	313-7702
West HI	323-0015
Maui/**Lāna'i**	727-7800
Molokai	774-8250
Kaua'i	274-3505



Special Education

Is it for your child?

Hawai'i State Department of Education
Office of Student Support Services
Exceptional Support Branch
Special Education Section
November 2025

RS **26-0535** (Rev. of RS **22-1114**) **November** 2025

What is special education?

Special Education is specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Special education may include, but is not limited to: academic services, speech-language services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, counseling services, and parent education. Special education services are provided at no additional cost to parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

Why is special education provided?

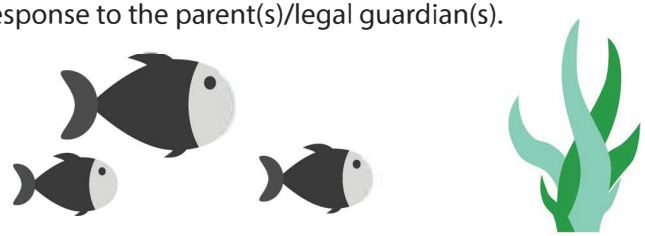
The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) and state regulations require the Hawai'i State Department of Education to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE), which includes a continuum of services for students who are eligible for special education and related services.

Who is eligible to receive special education?

Any student ages 3 up to 22 who demonstrates a need for specially designed instruction, after an eligibility determination.

How may a student be referred for special education?

A student may be referred for special education by contacting the school principal and requesting an evaluation. When a request for evaluation is made, the school will process the evaluation request and provide a written response to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s).



What is the evaluation process for special education?

A student who is suspected of having a disability is entitled to an appropriate evaluation to determine eligibility for special education. The evaluation will determine the nature and extent of the student's needs. Evaluations are comprised of separate assessments which may include: academic performance, communication skills, general intelligence, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, and motor abilities.

If a student is eligible for special education, services are provided to the student through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Who determines special education and related services?

The IEP team determines the special education services, based on the student's needs. The IEP team includes the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), student (if appropriate), school administrator or designee, special education teacher, and general education teacher.

Where will special education and related services be delivered?

Special education services may be delivered in a variety of settings based on the student's needs as addressed in the student's IEP. If a student's needs cannot be met in the general education environment with the use of adaptations, modifications, supplementary aids or services, the services may be delivered in a special education setting. Upon completion of the IEP, a placement determination will be made. Students will attend their home school unless their specific needs cannot be met at the home school.