Student Achievement Continues to Rise in Latest College and Career Readiness Indicators Report

Hawai’i P-20’s latest College and Career Readiness Indicators Report (CCRI) for the Class of 2017 shows that programs and policies designed to boost student achievement and strengthen successful transitions between high school, college, and career are continuing to prove effective. One in four students in this class earned the DOE Honors Certificate, an increase of seven percentage points from the Class of 2016. The on-time graduation rate has steadily increased to the current rate of 83 percent, and of those graduates who enrolled in college, more are taking college-level math and English without need for remediation. In addition, dual credit participation, which allows high school students to earn both high school and college credits while in high school, is up eleven percentage points since the Class of 2012. The CCRI reports are a leading example of collaboration between K-12 and higher education and for providing useful information on college and career readiness.

Successful Early College Programs Increase Student Opportunities and Outcomes

Early College has been growing exponentially over the past few years—from 12 Early College classes offered by University of Hawai’i campuses for high school students in the 2012-13 school year to approximately 455 classes in the 2018-19 school year. Hawai’i P-20 anticipates that the demand for Early College classes will continue to grow over the next few years.

Early College has also proven to be a successful strategy in reducing opportunity and achievement gaps between economically disadvantaged students and their non-disadvantaged peers. Economically disadvantaged HIDOE graduates who participated in dual credit have had higher college enrollment and persistence rates compared to graduates who did not participate in dual credit. The continued success of Early College resulted in HIDOE receiving continued legislative funding to support Early College classes in FY2018-19.

Transition Courses Prepare More Students for College Level Math

First piloted during SY2015-16, the Introduction to College Math alignment course, designed to help better prepare 12th grade students for college level math, is proving to be successful. Data shows that two-thirds of students who took the course over the past two years and then attended college at any of the ten UH campuses, took and passed a college level math class within one year. Based on these positive student outcomes, the course was expanded to twenty schools on five islands in the 2017-18 school year.

Building on this success, a middle school math transition course will be piloted in Fall 2018. The course is modeled, in part, on the mathematical mindsets work of Dr. Jo Boaler of Stanford University who was the keynote speaker at Hawai’i P-20’s 2018 Math Summit. The purpose of the class is twofold: 1) to ensure that all students are on track to pass 8th grade math successfully, leading to success in Algebra 1 in 9th grade; and 2) to identify and support those students who are capable of taking and passing Algebra 1 in the 8th grade, thus putting them on a secure STEM pathway.
CTE Alignment Work Creating Clearer Pathways from High School to College to Careers

In June, Hawai‘i P-20 coordinated a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Alignment Symposium, bringing together partners from HIDOE, UH campuses and industry leaders to discuss how groups can better work together to develop clearer pathways for students; from high school to postsecondary and the workforce. Alex Harris, Strategic Advisor of the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation shared a national career pathway landscape as well as provided a local perspective of the connections that Hawai‘i schools can make from education to industry. Stakeholders involved in designing career pathways in Hawai‘i heard from industry experts on what is needed to create successful career pathways for the future, and attendees were able to build action plans that incorporated feedback from fellow attendees for support and inspiration. Each person left the event with a next step on how they can positively contribute to this alignment work moving forward.

Hawai‘i P-20 is working to align programs between HIDOE and UH campuses by creating materials that help guide the decisions about what courses and experiences make sense for a student while in high school. By connecting the work to the UH campuses and industry, students see the programs as both attainable and relevant.

Summer Programs Prepare Our Youngest Learners for Kindergarten

Kailua Elementary School and Kalihi Uka Elementary School offered a summer transition program for approximately 50 incoming kindergarteners, to help students with little or no preschool experience. Funded by the Samuel and Mary Castle Foundation, these three-week programs were designed to promote school attendance, support learning and development, and ensure a smooth and successful transition into kindergarten. Daily activities included learning stations focused on developing reading and writing skills based on the Hawai‘i Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS) curriculum as well as other activities to engage the students’ in preparing them for kindergarten. Parent involvement and teacher focus groups at the end of the program were coordinated to gain feedback on how to improve the program for future years. Studies show that a student’s kindergarten year is an important one, creating the pathway for them to be academically successful in elementary school and beyond.
Student Level Data Improves FAFSA Completion

Students who complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are more likely to enroll and persist in college. In a recent study, 90 percent of students who completed a FAFSA in high school enrolled directly into college, compared to 55 percent of students who did not complete a FAFSA. Hawai‘i P-20’s work to increase FAFSA completions statewide continues to be a focus. This year, working in collaboration with the University of Hawai‘i System Financial Aid office and the Federal Student Aid office, student-level FAFSA completion data was disseminated back to the students’ high school counselors for follow up.

Over 5,700 FAFSA applications were completed by the HIDOE Class of 2018, a slight increase over the previous year. By providing this new set of data to schools, counselors and teachers are able to follow up individually with students to encourage completion of their FAFSA.

Cash for College Challenge Expands with Support from Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

Moloka‘i and McKinley High Schools won first place for having the highest percentage of students complete the FAFSA in Hawai‘i P-20’s Cash for College Challenge. A total of 73% of students in the senior class at Moloka‘i High School and 63% at McKinley High School completed the FAFSA, which helps students and families identify the financial aid for which they are eligible for and is required if applying for federal student grants, work-study, or loans.

Of the remaining schools, ‘Aiea and Kohala High Schools were recognized for increasing the percentage of FAFSA completions over the previous year.

Fifteen schools participated in the SY2017-18 challenge. Schools with the top FAFSA completion rates as well as the greatest increase in FAFSA completions from the previous year were awarded cash prizes that could be used to support senior class activities such as high school graduation, prom, and end-of-year events.

The contest was open to GEAR UP eligible high schools and included: ‘Aiea, Farrington, Hilo, Honoka‘a, Kailua, Kealakehe, Kohala, Konawaena, Leilehua, McKinley, Moloka‘i, Nānākuli, Wai‘anae, Waimea, Waipahu.

Math and ELA Summits Focus on Improving Student Transitions

Hawai‘i P-20 continues to convene the annual statewide math and English Language Arts (ELA) summits. Mathematical Mindsets for Math Transitions, a summit held in November, included K-12 educators, higher education administrators, math faculty, and teacher preparation faculty to gain a clearer understanding of best practices in math instruction for students transitioning from elementary to middle school, middle school to high school, high school to gateway courses in higher education, and success in higher education programs. The keynote speaker was Dr. Jo Boaler, Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University and co-founder of Youcubed. Dr. Boaler is committed to promoting mathematics education reform and equitable mathematics classrooms. She is the author of many books including Mathematical Mindsets, What’s Math Got to Do with It? and The Elephant in the Classroom.

In January, The English Language Arts Summit, Building Bridges to Success from Middle School to English 100 convened HIDOE and higher education administrators, ELA faculty, and teacher preparation faculty to share best practices for college and career readiness in English Language Arts. The Summit was designed to promote discussions about strengthening English Language Arts transitional pipelines from middle school to high school to English 100 and into the workforce. Speakers included national reading and writing experts as well as master teachers from around the state. The featured keynote speaker was Laura Robb, author of the books Read, Talk, Write; Unlocking Complex Texts: A Systematic Framework for Building Adolescents’ Comprehension, and The Reading Intervention Toolkit.
Building Purposeful Early College Programs

Hawai‘i P-20 brought together over 125 attendees from University of Hawai‘i campuses and HIDOE schools for a one-day Early College Technical Assistance Convening at the Kroc Center with the aim to network and share best practices on how to build stronger Early College programs. Keynote speaker, Leah Moschella, from Jobs for the Future, shared insight on how to create a system of opportunity where all young people are equipped not only with college credit, but also with credentials, technical skills, and employability competencies that are necessary to succeed and adapt in today’s changing economy. Breakout sessions included speakers from early college programs who shared implementation strategies on creating successful partnerships and programs in their schools to better prepare students for college and career success.

Data Dashboards Show Where Hawai‘i’s Students Are in the State’s Workforce

An interactive online dashboard created by Hawai‘i P-20’s data team includes various metrics that allow for the tracking of key transition points from middle to high school and postsecondary to the workforce, and provides a look at how this impacts educational and workforce outcomes.

The dashboard features postsecondary to workforce metrics, including a breakdown of where University of Hawai‘i graduates are found in Hawai‘i’s workforce one to five years after graduation, by campus/institution, major, and degree level. Identifying these trends provides insight for educators, policymakers and other stakeholders on how they can help prepare Hawai‘i’s students for the workforce, as well as create a diversified economy that employs graduates right here at home.

The dashboard also provides data to track 8th graders promoted on-time to 10th grade. Research shows that on-time promotion to 10th grade is a strong predictor of on-time high school graduation, and students who are promoted on-time are less likely to drop out. By using this metric, one can identify populations of at-risk students and facilitate alignment and collaboration between middle and high schools to decrease 9th grade retention rates.

Workforce Outcomes of UH Graduates

A recently published issue brief titled “Building Hawai‘i’s Education-to-Workforce Pipeline” provides insight about where Hawai‘i’s DOE graduates who attended the University of Hawai‘i System (UH), are found in the state’s workforce. Based on cross-sector data analyzed by Hawai‘i P-20’s data team, this brief describes the transition of students from the HIDOE and UH System into Hawai‘i’s workforce, and is just one example of how the power of data is used to improve the outcomes of Hawai‘i’s students and the economy.

Data Summit Focuses on Education-to-Workforce Pipeline

Over 200 attendees from across the state joined Hawai‘i P-20 at the 2018 Data Summit, “The Education-to-Workforce Pipeline.” The 5th annual summit was sponsored by the Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC), and highlighted how education impacts workforce outcomes, including presentations on the work being done in Hawai‘i using longitudinal data, none of which would have been possible without the sharing of data across sectors.
Over 2,200 middle school students at Ewa Makai, Kalākaua, Kealakehe, Waimea Canyon and Waipahu Intermediate spearheaded 55 by '25 events at their schools last year, motivating classmates to sign pledge sheets and banners to commit to attending college. Students at these schools developed innovative ways to spread the message about the importance of college with activities to encourage their peers to pledge. At Kalākaua Middle School, a week-long series of events were held, including a student-led college fair for fellow classmates and parents, sign waving during morning drop off along Kalihi Street, and lunch-time college awareness games like Jeopardy and celebrity-to-college match-up. “At Kalākaua Middle School, we love the 55 by ‘25 campaign because we weave it into a week’s worth of events and incorporate a variety of activities to get our students hyped about college and their future,” says Sabrina Feliciano, AVID Coordinator. “Many students at our school are not thinking about college as an option at this point and the initiative gives them a chance to reflect and think, “Yeah... why not college?...why not me?”

The MyFutureHawai‘i (MFH) portal was updated this year to engage more students in an easier to navigate platform. Currently in its fifth year of implementation, MFH is a “one-stop shop” for students and families to explore career skills and interests, search for colleges, learn about financing options and track students’ courses and progress toward high school graduation. One of the new features added to this platform is a middle school portal to provide a more “guided” approach for students to start exploring career interests. Student information can be saved and transferred to the high school platform upon entering ninth grade. The high school platform allows for student academic data, including Smarter Balance scores, to be transferred to the University of Hawai‘i application system. The UH Community Colleges can then use the Smarter Balanced scores for course placement, so they are able to properly place students into the appropriate classes. For SY2018-19, all HIDOE high schools statewide will have access to MFH.

Middle School Students Continue to Build College Aspirations

Students at Kealakehe Intermediate make the pledge for college during lunch time assembly.

Kalākaua Middle School students create colorful signs to promote college at their pledge day event.
Students Explore Careers at the Middle School Fair

Over 750 students from nine O‘ahu schools and 75 exhibitors participated in Hawai‘i P-20’s middle school career fair at the Hawai‘i Convention Center. Exhibitors from University of Hawai‘i programs and various private sector organizations provided interactive, hands-on exhibits for students, including 3-D gadgets, movie cameras and automotive technology equipment. Over the years, the event has grown from 25 to 75 exhibitors and the number of students attending from 300 to over 750.

6-16 Partnership Teams Create Educational Pipelines

The 6-16 initiative is focused on developing and implementing a comprehensive college and career guidance program involving five partnership teams of high schools, their feeder middle schools and UH campuses. Jointly supported by the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and Hawai‘i P-20, the 6-16 grant promotes feeder school collaboration and aims to create smoother educational pipelines where students receive consistent information and assistance in planning for their college and career aspirations. Three technical assistance convenings were held last year to help the five partnership teams develop their plans and identify grade level outcomes and goals. Hawai‘i P-20 will be working closely with the partnership teams in SY2018-19 to support the implementation of 6-16 college and career activities through additional technical assistance convenings and professional development resources.

Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education

College, career and community readiness for students is our focus. We identify opportunities, implement innovative programs, collaborate with stakeholders and provide data-supported evidence to influence education policies and programs that improve outcomes for Hawai‘i’s students and the community.

We are a statewide collaborative led by the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL), Hawai‘i State Department of Education (HIDOE) and the University of Hawai‘i System (UH).

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