



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

December 21, 2020

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the report on State-funded prekindergarten programs and private partnership-funded prekindergarten programs in public schools, except special education and Title I-funded prekindergarten programs, pursuant to Act 276, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: <https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Report-to-the-2021-Legislature.pdf>

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Moriguchi".

Lauren Moriguchi
Director

LM:JF
Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau
Office of the Governor
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Department of Budget and Finance
Legislative Auditor



Executive Office on Early Learning

Report to the 2021 Legislature: December 21, 2020

History

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) was established by Act 178, Regular Session of 2012, and signed into law in June 2012. On July 1, 2015, EOEL was transferred from the Office of the Governor to become attached to the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) for administrative purposes only.

EOEL is charged with developing an early learning system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality, developmentally appropriate early learning opportunities for Hawaii's children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten.

Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, appropriated \$3 million for the establishment of Hawaii's first State-funded prekindergarten program as a part of that system. EOEL launched the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program (Program), through a partnership with HIDOE, at 18 department schools and 20 classrooms across the state starting the 2014-15 school year. The Program was statutorily established by Act 109, Regular Session of 2015.

Act 276, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019 (Act 276), required the following classrooms to be incorporated into the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program:

- Charter school prekindergarten classrooms that were previously funded through the federal Preschool Development Grant;
- Weighted student formula-funded prekindergarten classrooms (HIDOE has identified only 2 such classrooms since 2019, and we understand 1 of these classrooms shifted to Title I funding); and
- Prekindergarten classrooms for children to provide general education settings for children whose individualized education programs require such placement (HIDOE has identified no such classrooms since 2019).

Act 276 also placed private partnership-funded classrooms in the public schools under the administrative authority of EOEL.

Context

In School Year 2019-2020:

- The EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program consisted of 44 classrooms at 36 department and charter schools, across 6 islands.
 - Ten new classrooms are also scheduled to open in School Year 2020-2021 with funding provided through Act 276.
- There were 5 private partnership-funded prekindergarten classrooms at 5 department schools that we were informed about.

This report provides the following information on the aforementioned classrooms for School Year 2019-2020, as of December 21, 2020:

1. The number and location of classrooms;
2. Numbers of students served and aggregated by birth month as of the date on which the official enrollment count is taken;
3. Sources of funding for each classroom;
4. Quality of teacher-child interactions relating to social emotional support, classroom structure, and quality of learning experiences, as assessed using a formative assessment tool selected by the office; and
5. Child outcomes relating to all areas of childhood development and learning, including cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional approaches to learning and health and physical development, as assessed using a formative assessment tool selected by the office.

Due to school closures in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers and children did not experience a typical full year of teaching and learning – children were in school for only three out of the four quarters. Virtual connections with families and virtual learning opportunities cannot replace the quality of in-person learning experiences for young children. In addition, assessments of children’s development and learning, as well as the quality of teacher-child interactions, cannot be properly conducted through virtual sessions. As such, the results of the assessments reported here, which were conducted earlier in the year, do not reflect the development and learning that would be expected over the course of a full school year.

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program – in the Department Schools

Table 1. EOEL Public Pre-K Program Classrooms in Department Schools, School Year 2019-2020

ISLAND	SCHOOL	# CLASSROOMS	FUNDING SOURCE
HAWAII	Honoka‘a Elementary	1	general funds
	Ho‘okena Elementary	1	general funds
	Kea‘au Elementary	1	general funds
	Keonepoko Elementary	1	general funds
	Kohala Elementary	1	general funds
	Konawaena Elementary	1	general funds
	Mountain View Elementary	1	general funds
	Nā‘ālehu Elementary	2	general funds
	Ka‘ū High & Pāhala Elementary	1	general funds
	Pāhoa Elementary	1	general funds
KAUAI	‘Ele‘ele Elementary	1	general funds
	Kekaha Elementary	1	general funds
LĀNA‘I	Lāna‘i Elementary	1	general funds
MAUI	Kula Elementary	1	general funds
MOLOKAI	Kaunakakai Elementary	1	general funds
	Kilohana Elementary	1	general funds
O‘AHU	Kailua Elementary	1	general funds
	Kalihi Uka Elementary	1	general funds
	Keolu Elementary	1	general funds
	Likelike Elementary*	1	general funds
	Linapuni Elementary	2	general funds
	Nānākuli Elementary	1	general funds
	Waiāhole Elementary	1	general funds
Waialua Elementary	2	general funds	
		27	

* Weighted student formula-funded prekindergarten classroom that was incorporated into the Program as a result of Act 276, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019.

Table 2. Students Served by Birth Month, EOEL Public Pre-K Program Classrooms in Department Schools, School Year 2019-2020

BIRTH MONTH	SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20	
	(QUARTER 4)	
JANUARY	34	
FEBRUARY	36	
MARCH	40	
APRIL	32	
MAY	39	
JUNE	38	
JULY	30	
AUGUST	33	
SEPTEMBER	59	
OCTOBER	42	
NOVEMBER	47	
DECEMBER	32	
TOTAL	462	

Note:

- *The Program requires that children be 4 years old on or before July 31 to be eligible for the upcoming school year.*

Table 3. Quality of Teacher-Child Interactions (CLASS™ Scores), EOEL Public Pre-K Program Classrooms in Department Schools, Quarter 2, School Year 2019-2020

CATEGORY	MEAN SCORE	STANDARD DEVIATION	MIN. SCORE	MAX. SCORE
POSITIVE CLIMATE	6.3	0.6	5.3	7.0
NEGATIVE CLIMATE*	1.2	0.3	1.0	2.3
TEACHER SENSITIVITY	5.4	0.8	4.0	6.7
REGARD FOR STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	5.1	0.9	3.7	6.7
BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT	5.3	0.9	3.0	7.0
PRODUCTIVITY	5.2	0.8	3.3	6.7
INSTRUCTIONAL LEARNING FORMATS	4.6	0.9	3.0	6.7
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT	3.3	1.0	2.0	6.0
QUALITY OF FEEDBACK	4.0	1.2	2.0	6.3
LANGUAGE MODELING	4.1	1.2	2.0	6.0

* A low value is desirable in this category.

Note:

- *The range of possible scores for each category is 1-7.*

- *Due to school closures and the shift to virtual family connections and learning in April 2020, CLASS observations were not conducted in the Spring as is typical. Scores reported here were collected in Fall 2019.*

Table 4. Child Outcomes (Teaching Strategies GOLD™ Percentages), EOEL Public Pre-K Program Classrooms in Department Schools, Winter Checkpoint, School Year 2019-2020

CATEGORY	PERCENT MEETING OR EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL	77
PHYSICAL	92
LANGUAGE	89
COGNITIVE	86
LITERACY	91
MATHEMATICS	97
AVERAGE	88.7

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program – in the Charter Schools

Table 5. EOEL Public Pre-K Program Classrooms in Charter Schools, School Year 2019-2020

ISLAND	SCHOOL	# CLASSROOMS	FUNDING SOURCE
HAWAI‘I	Ka ‘Umeke Kāeo Public Charter School	1	general funds
	Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u Iki Laboratory Public Charter School (Hilo & Waimea campuses)	2	general funds
	Kua O Ka Lā New Century Public Charter School	2	general funds
	Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter School	2	general funds
	Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School	1	general funds
	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	1	general funds
KAUA‘I	Ke Kula Ni‘ihau O Kekaha Learning Center	1	general funds
MOLOKAI	Kualapu‘u Charter School	1	general funds
O‘AHU	Kamaile Academy Public Charter School	3	general funds
	Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u Iki Laboratory Public Charter School (Nānākuli campus)	1	general funds
	Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School	1	general funds
	Wai‘alae Elementary Public Charter School	1	general funds
		17	

Table 6. Students Served by Birth Month, EOEL Public Pre-K Program Classrooms in Charter Schools, School Year 2019-2020

BIRTH MONTH	SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20	
	(QUARTER 1)	
JANUARY	29	
FEBRUARY	16	
MARCH	19	
APRIL	9	
MAY	20	
JUNE	14	
JULY	13	
AUGUST	24	
SEPTEMBER	23	
OCTOBER	24	
NOVEMBER	21	
DECEMBER	19	
TOTAL	231	

Note:

- The Program requires that children be 4 years old on or before July 31 to be eligible for the upcoming school year.
- Due to school closures and the shift to distance learning in April 2020, enrollment counts were not collected in the Spring as is typical. Counts reported here were collected in Fall 2019.

Table 7. Quality of Teacher-Child Interactions (CLASS™ Scores), EOEL Public Pre-K Program Classrooms in Charter Schools, Quarter 2, School Year 2019-2020

CATEGORY	MEAN SCORE	STANDARD DEVIATION	MIN. SCORE	MAX. SCORE
POSITIVE CLIMATE	6.5	0.6	5.3	7.0
NEGATIVE CLIMATE*	1.2	0.4	1.0	2.0
TEACHER SENSITIVITY	5.6	0.9	4.0	7.0
REGARD FOR STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	5.2	1.0	3.8	7.0
BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT	5.7	1.0	4.3	7.0
PRODUCTIVITY	5.5	1.0	4.0	7.0
INSTRUCTIONAL LEARNING FORMATS	4.8	0.8	3.0	6.0
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT	3.0	1.0	1.8	5.0
QUALITY OF FEEDBACK	3.7	1.0	2.0	6.0
LANGUAGE MODELING	3.9	0.9	2.8	5.3

* A low value is desirable in this category.

Note:

- The range of possible scores for each category is 1-7.
- Four Native Hawaiian immersion classrooms are excluded from these data as the SPCSC is in the process of training CLASS assessors who are fluent in the Native Hawaiian language.
- Due to school closures and the shift to distance learning in April 2020, CLASS observations were not conducted in the Spring as is typical. Scores reported here were collected in Fall 2019.

Table 8. Child Outcomes (Teaching Strategies GOLD™ Percentages), EOEL Public Pre-K Program Classrooms in Charter Schools, Winter Checkpoint, School Year 2019-2020

CATEGORY	PERCENT MEETING OR EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL	88
PHYSICAL	99
LANGUAGE	96
COGNITIVE	89
LITERACY	97
MATHEMATICS	93
AVERAGE	93.6

Note:

- Two Native Hawaiian medium and immersion schools, Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani’ōpu’u Public Charter School and Ka ‘Umeke Kāeo, use the Curriculum-Based Measurement tool in lieu of Teaching Strategies GOLD. Because these scores represent such a small number of classrooms, they have been omitted here to maintain student confidentiality.
- Due to school closures and the shift to distance learning in April 2020, assessments of child outcomes were not completed in the Spring as is typical. Scores reported here were collected in Winter 2019.

Private Partnership-Funded Prekindergarten Classrooms in the Public Schools

Table 9. Private Partnership-Funded Pre-K Classrooms in Public Schools, SY19-20

ISLAND	SCHOOL	# CLASSROOMS	FUNDING SOURCE
HAWAI'I	Hōnaunau Elementary	1	Kamehameha Schools
	Waimea Elementary	1	Kamehameha Schools
MAUI	Hāna High & Elementary	1	Kamehameha Schools
O'AHU	Nānāikapono Elementary	1	Kamehameha Schools
	Nānākuli Elementary	1	Kamehameha Schools
		5	

Please note that HIDOE was unable to provide information for these classrooms regarding:

- Numbers of students served and aggregated by birth month;
- Quality of teacher-child interactions; and
- Child outcomes relating to all areas of childhood development and learning.