

What are the educational achievements and goals of Hawai'i's youth?

Learning is the major activity of all children. In the teen years, they are building on the basic skills of elementary school, reinforcing attitudes toward learning that will be part of their life pattern. Hawai'i students exhibit great variability in their understanding of the importance of education and in their performance.

- From 1990 to 2000, the average daily attendance rate for public high school students has remained steady at about 90%.
- More than 45% of teens ages 12 to 17 report a lack of interest in or commitment to school
- Almost 13% of public school middle and high school students were enrolled in special education classes in 2000, about one-third more than in 1998.
- More than 6% of public school students have limited proficiency in English.
- Less than 20% of Hawai'i's public school 8th graders scored above average on the Stanford Achievement Test of Reading compared to 23% nationally.
- Almost 23% of Hawai'i's 8th graders scored above average on the math test, comparable to national norms.
- Of Hawai'i's seniors who took the SAT I in 2001, 67% were from public schools, 16% from religiously affiliated schools, and 17% from independent schools. The mean score was 486 in verbal and 515 in math, compared to national means of 506 and 514 respectively.
- The top three intended college majors of Hawai'i's college-bound seniors who took the 2001 SAT I (public and private school) were health and allied sciences (17%), business and commerce (13%), and engineering (10%). Approximately 8% were undecided about their major.

2001 Public High School Seniors' Future Plans

