

# Strive HI 2014 Preliminary Results

## Public Charter Schools

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## Introduction

The Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) implemented the Strive HI Performance System in the 2012-2013 school year and released its first performance reports in July 2013. Changes in the system and additional information have been added and should be considered when interpreting this year's data and making year-by-year comparisons. Specific considerations and background for data interpretation include:

### Academic Performance Index (API) Scores & Classifications

The API score is made of multiple indicators measuring achievement, growth, readiness, and achievement gaps. The top 5% of schools are classified as "Recognition" Schools; the top 75-85% of schools are "Continuous Improvement" schools; the next lowest 10% are classified as "Focus" schools and the lowest 5% are "Priority" schools. Certain triggers, such as a low graduation rate, will automatically classify a school as Focus or Priority. While API scores may shift each year, most Strive HI classifications will not change because they are two-year designations.<sup>1</sup> However, schools that met the criteria for Recognition status this past year will be classified as Recognition schools. All school classifications will be re-evaluated after the 2014-2015 school year.

### Schools Serving Multiple Grade Divisions

Strive HI considers a school's division to be determined by the highest grade level the school serves. For example, a school that serves grades 9 through 12 and a school that serves grades Kindergarten through 12 are both considered "high schools" under Strive HI. Because of this, the DOE does not require a K-12 school to participate in the 8th grade ACT EXPLORE exam and does not measure the elementary grades' chronic absenteeism.

### 8th Grade ACT EXPLORE & 11th ACT Exams

The 8th grade ACT EXPLORE exam is the only measure for the Strive HI College and Career Readiness indicator for middle or intermediate schools. It measures whether or not a student is on track to be college-ready. Last year, a school's median 8th grade ACT EXPLORE Composite score was used to earn points on the Strive HI rubric. This measure is now calculated by multiplying the percent of

students scoring a Composite score above 15 on the 8th grade ACT EXPLORE by the total possible points in the measure. Charter schools were not required to administer the 8th grade ACT EXPLORE or 11th grade ACT in the 2012-2013 school year.<sup>2</sup>

### Small Populations

Charter schools' student populations vary in size. Schools with small populations may see greater fluctuations in school performance between years. Also, school data are suppressed when the measured population is so small that individual students could be identified from disclosure of the data. In addition, some measures cannot be conducted when the student population is too small.

### Missing Data

Charter schools were required to administer the 8th and 11th grade ACT exam 2013-2014 school year, but not for the previous year; thus, there are more data available this year on these measures. Again, some measures are missing data in one or both years because the school's student population was too small to conduct the measure.

### Appeals Process

The DOE has an appeal process when a school disputes the data that are used to calculate Strive HI results. Several charter schools have appealed their data, and the appeals have not yet been decided.

▶ **Final Strive HI reports will be published in mid-September 2014.** Until then, Strive HI data should be viewed as **preliminary** and are **subject to change**.

<sup>1</sup> There is one exception to this procedure. For this year only, the DOE was allowed by the U.S. Department of Education to reclassify Priority schools as Focus schools if they met specific criteria. One charter school, Ke Kula Ni'ihau o Kekaha Learning Center Learning Center, was reclassified per this exception.

<sup>2</sup> In the 2013-2014 school year, a school serving both middle and high school grade levels was not required to administer the 8th grade ACT EXPLORE exam. Because the Commission's Academic Performance Framework factors in a multi-division school's performance at all grade divisions served, for school year 2014-2015, multi-division charter schools are required to administer the assessments for the grade levels served.

## Strive HI 2014 Preliminary Results

This report provides highlights of charter schools' preliminary results under the State's Strive HI Performance System for the 2013-2014 school year. An in-depth analysis of trends within the charter sector will be produced after the DOE resolves appeals and finalizes results. The report also provides highlights from some charter schools under each Strive HI Classification (*i.e.*, Recognition, Continuous Improvement, Focus, Priority). This review is intended to provide a snapshot of charter schools; data are included to provide context for interpretation.

### Overall Charter School Performance

Except for **Reading proficiency** and **chronic absenteeism**, the charter schools, on average, improved in each measure.

- ▶ The average API score rose 6 points, from 184 to 190.
- ▶ The average Math proficiency rate rose from 44% to 46%.
- ▶ The average Reading proficiency rate fell from 65% to 64%.
- ▶ The average Science proficiency rate rose from 28% to 30%.
- ▶ The average Math median growth percentile rose from 44 to 47.
- ▶ The average Reading median growth percentile rose from 48 to 50.
- ▶ The average Chronic Absenteeism rate rose from 13% to 16%.
- ▶ The average percentage of students scoring above 19 on the 11th grade ACT increased from 21% to 25%.
- ▶ The average Graduation rate increased from 66% to 69%.
- ▶ The average College-Going rate increased from 58% to 64%.
- ▶ The average Current Year Gap rate fell from 26% to 23%.
- ▶ The average Two Year Gap Reduction rate increased from -21% to 12%.

### Rankings

- ▶ Five of the eleven highest-performing public high schools, as measured by the Strive HI API score, are charter schools: Myron B. Thompson Academy, Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA) A New Century Public Charter School, University Laboratory School, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science Public Charter School (HAAS), and Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School.
- ▶ Two of the four highest-performing public middle schools, as measured by the Strive HI API score, are charter schools: Voyager: A Public Charter School, and Innovations Public Charter School.

## Classification: Recognition

### **Na Wai Ola (Waters of Life) Public Charter School,<sup>3</sup> Grades K-6**

Na Wai Ola (Waters of Life) Public Charter School's API Score fell from 364 to 143. Last year the school was classified as a Recognition school for demonstrating high levels of achievement and progress. It should be noted that the school was the only charter school that was evaluated by two different weighing schemes because the school changed from a middle school in the first year of Strive HI to an elementary school in the second year.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The school's official name was changed last year from Waters of Life New Century Public Charter School.

<sup>4</sup> The school previously served grades K-8; it now serves K-6.

## Classification: Continuous Improvement

### **Innovations Public Charter School, Grades K-8**

Innovations Public Charter School gained 165 API points by increasing student growth, increasing Science proficiency to 55%, and making significant progress in closing the gap rate between High-Needs student achievement and Non High-Needs student achievement.

### **Volcano School of Arts & Sciences, Grades K-8**

Volcano School of Arts & Sciences' API score decreased by 144 API points. The school's scores for Math proficiency, Reading proficiency, and Growth decreased.

### **Voyager: A Public Charter School, Grades K-8**

Voyager: A Public Charter School's API score went up 131 points. Growth improved significantly, as did Science proficiency. 47% of students are on track to be college-ready as measured by the 8th grade ACT EXPLORE exam, an increase from last year's 15%.

### **Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School,<sup>5</sup> Grades 4-12**

Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School's API score increased 105 points to 238 due to increased proficiency rates in all subjects and increased growth.

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<sup>5</sup> Except for the school's Strive HI API score and Classification, data are not publicly available due to small student populations.

## Classification: Focus

### Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science Public Charter School (HAAS), Grades K-12

HAAS's API score increased from 192 to 243. The school has improved in each measure and preliminary results suggest the school is one of the highest-performing high schools in Focus status and above average in performance for all public high schools. The school was classified as a Focus school due to a low graduation rate (68%); the school has since increased the graduation rate to 85%. 39% of 11th graders scored 19 or higher on the ACT. The school is currently appealing the data used to calculate the Strive HI 2014 report.

### Hawaii Technology Academy, Grades K-12

Hawaii Technology Academy earned an API of 199, which is comparable to last year's API of 202. The school was classified as a Focus school due to a low graduation rate. The graduation rate has increased, but still falls short of the 70% graduation target.<sup>6</sup> The school is currently appealing the graduation rate data.

### Ke Kula Ni'ihau o Kekaha Learning Center,<sup>7</sup> Grades K-12

Ke Kula Ni'ihau o Kekaha Learning Center's API score increased from 17 to 151. Last year the school was missing data for the college-going rate, current gap rate, and two-year reduction gap rate. This year data are unavailable for the current gap rate and two-year gap reduction rate due to a small student population. The data are also unavailable for the college-going rate measure. The school was classified as a Priority school due to the low API score and Title I status.<sup>8</sup> Because the school met the exit criteria specified by the U.S. Department of Education after Strive HI's first year of implementation, the school was reclassified as a Focus school. This type of reclassification only applied to schools classified as Priority in the 2012-2013 school year that met the Priority status exit criteria in the 2013-2014 school year.

### Kihei Charter School, Grades K-12

Kihei Charter School's API score fell from 235 to 208. Last year, the school did not have 11th grade ACT data; this year 55% of students scored a Composite score of 19 or higher. The school was classified as a Focus school due to a low graduation rate (51%); the graduation rate has increased to 64%. The school is currently appealing data used to calculate the Strive HI 2014 report.

### Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School,<sup>9</sup> Grades PreK-12

Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School's API score fell from 202 to 158. This year, the school is missing data for the two-year gap reduction rate measure due to a small student population; last year the school had data for each measure. The school was classified as a Focus school due to a high graduation gap.<sup>10</sup> The graduation gap data for the 2013-2014 school year has not yet been released.

### West Hawai'i Explorations Academy, Grades 6-12

West Hawai'i Explorations Academy's API score fell from 245 to 198. Last year, the school did not have data for the two-year gap reduction measure. This year, the school's two-year gap reduction rate is 4%. The school was classified last year as a Focus school under an automatic trigger due to the high graduation gap. The graduation gap data for the 2013-2014 school year has not yet been released. The school is currently appealing data used to calculate the Strive HI 2014 report.

<sup>6</sup> Data were suppressed for this school last year due to n-size issues; data are currently being suppressed as a precautionary measure until the DOE embargo on Strive HI 2014 Reports is lifted, Monday, August 18, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Except for the school's Strive HI API score and Classification, data are not publicly available due to small student populations.

<sup>8</sup> Focus schools are identified, in a large part, based on the lowest overall performance on the Strive HI Academic Performance Index (API) of schools not already identified as a Priority school. Specifically, Focus schools are drawn from the 10% of Title I schools above Priority schools. Non-Title I schools are also identified as Focus schools if their API rank is equal to or below the highest ranked Title I Focus school.

<sup>9</sup> Except for the school's Strive HI API score and Classification, data are not publicly available due to small student populations.

<sup>10</sup> A large graduation gap is any gap in the high school graduation rate between a school's Non-High-Needs and High-Needs groups above 20%.

## Classification: Priority

### **Hakipu'u Learning Center,<sup>11</sup> Grades 4-12**

Hakipu'u Learning Center's API score increased from 84 to 107. Last year the school was missing data for the current gap rate and two-year gap reduction rate. This year, data are still unavailable for these measures due to small student population. The school was classified as a Priority school due to the school's low API score and Title I status.<sup>12</sup>

### **Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo,<sup>13</sup> Grades K-12**

Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo's API score increased from 35 to 104. Last year the school was missing data for the graduation and college-going rate; data are still unavailable for these measures. The school was classified as a Priority school due to the school's low API score and Title I status.

### **Kamaile Academy, Public Charter School, Grades PreK-12**

Kamaile Academy, PCS's API score increased from 166 to 175. Last year the school was missing data for the graduation and college-going rate; data are still unavailable for these measures as the school graduated its first class in May 2014. 35% of students demonstrated proficiency in math, 41% in reading, and 16% in science. 33% of 11th graders were on track to be college-ready with an ACT score of 19 or higher. The school was classified as a Priority school because the school is part of the School Improvement Grant program, which automatically identifies all schools implementing this school intervention model and places them in Priority status.

### **Ke Kula 'o Nawahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, Laboratory Public Charter School,<sup>14</sup> Grades K-8**

Ke Kula 'o Nawahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS's API score increased from 20 to 76. Last year the school was missing data for the 8th grade ACT, current gap rate, and two-year gap reduction rate. This year data are still unavailable for the current gap rate and two-year gap reduction rate due to a small student population. The school was classified as a Priority school due to the school's low API score and Title I status.

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<sup>11</sup> Except for the school's Strive HI API score and Classification, data are not publicly available due to small student populations.


<sup>12</sup> Focus schools are identified, in a large part, based on the lowest overall performance on the Strive HI Academic Performance Index (API) of schools not already identified as a Priority school. Specifically, Focus schools are drawn from the 10% of Title I schools above Priority schools. Non-Title I schools are also identified as Focus schools if their API rank is equal to or below the highest ranked Title I Focus school.

<sup>13</sup> Except for the school's Strive HI API score and Classification, data are not publicly available due to small student populations.

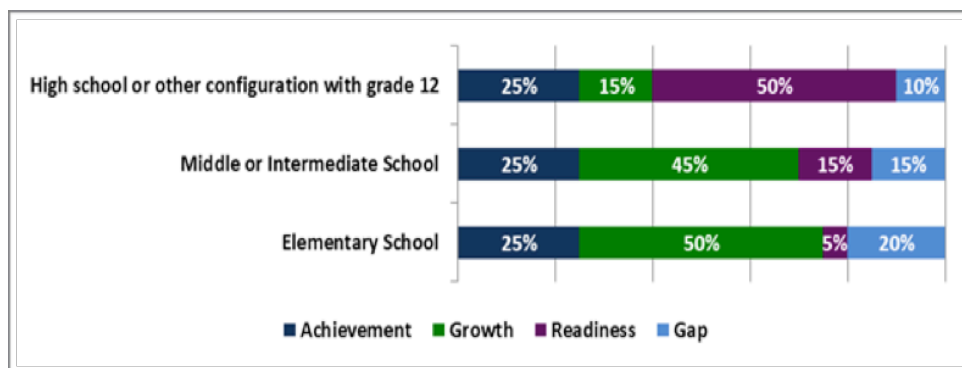
<sup>14</sup> Except for the school's Strive HI API score and Classification, data are not publicly available due to small student populations.

## Understanding the Strive HI Performance Index

The Strive HI Performance Index (below) measures a school’s performance in four main indicators: achievement, growth, readiness, and achievement gap. Each indicator is worth 100 points.

<b>STRIVE HI</b> PERFORMANCE SYSTEM		<b>Performance Index</b>			
<b>Achievement</b>		Reading proficiency	Math proficiency	Science proficiency	
<b>Growth</b>		Reading growth		Math growth	
<b>Readiness</b>	<i>Elementary</i>	Chronic absenteeism			
	<i>Middle</i>	8 <sup>th</sup> grade ACT/Explore			
	<i>High</i>	11 <sup>th</sup> grade ACT	HS Graduation Rate	College-going rate	
<b>Achievement Gap</b>		Current Year Gap Rate		2-Year Gap Reduction Rate	

Schools earn points in each category, and can earn a maximum of 400 points on the Strive HI Academic Performance Index. These points are weighted for the school division; the culminating score out of 400 points is known as the Academic Performance Index (API) score. Schools’ points are weighted based on the highest grade level they serve. For example, a school that serves grades Kindergarten through 12th grade would be considered a high school under the Strive HI Performance System.<sup>15</sup>



<sup>15</sup> The Commission’s Academic Performance Framework (APF), which measures the annual academic performance and outcomes of charter schools, employs a methodology that evaluates the performance of each division of a multi-division school. For example, the Elementary, Middle, and High school divisions of a school that serves Kindergarten through 12th grade would be evaluated and weighted separately and proportionately to the size of the population within each division to determine the school’s overall performance.



After the API score is calculated, the DOE follows a series of selection procedures to identify and differentiate schools for rewards, supports, and interventions. Schools are then classified as Recognition, Continuous Improvement, Focus, Priority, or Superintendent’s Zone.

