

## **Campbell Complex School Attendance Policy**

### **The Hawai'i State Compulsory Attendance Law**

In 2014, Act 76 was signed into law making kindergarten attendance mandatory. Beginning with school year 2014-2015, any parent, guardian, or other person having the responsibility for, or care of a child who will be five years of age by July 31 of the school year, shall enroll the child in public school kindergarten unless the child is enrolled at a private school or the child's attendance is otherwise exempt under Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 302A-1132.

**§302A-1132, Attendance Compulsory, Exceptions Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)**, requires a child who is five years of age and not yet eighteen on January 1st of any school year, to attend either a public or private school unless properly excused from school.

**§302A-1136, Enforcement, HRS**, places the responsibility for enforcing compulsory attendance in accordance with the plans and policies of the Department of Education (DOE). Toward this end, agreements have been developed with all police departments within the state regarding truant students. Students who are chronic absentees may be referred to Family Court.

**§302A-1135, Penalty, HRS**, student, father or mother, guardian, or person having charge of the child who persists in being absent from school may be referred and summoned to court. A parent or guardian who does not enforce the child's regular school attendance may be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. The penalty for a petty misdemeanor is a fine of up to \$1000.00 (HRS 707-640) or jail time for up to thirty (30) days (HRS 706-663).

### **The Hawai'i State Department of Education's Philosophical Base**

In consonance with the statutory requirements relating to education, the DOE is committed to providing each individual with an educational program which will help the student to develop to the fullest extent of the student's capabilities and become a useful member of society. Teachers, administrators, and other staff shall make every effort to work with students and their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) to optimize available learning activities as well as educational services and opportunities. According to the Board of Education's Student Code of Conduct policy regarding attendance and punctuality, students are expected to attend daily, attend all classes, and be on time every day.

### **Campbell Complex Philosophy**

We, the schools of the Campbell community, with the support of the parents and community, believe that:

- School attendance is a primary indicator of academic success.
- Optimum benefits of education can be achieved only when students attend school daily and are in class on time.

- Excessive absences, unexcused absences and/or tardies are barriers to learning and prevent maximum teaching and learning from taking place.
- All stakeholders, collectively, must support all efforts toward the development of a school community that teaches and enforces a strong attendance policy with effective procedures and interventions.
- Attendance is a learned attitude and behavior that can be proactively taught. Schools will proactively teach appropriate behaviors and attitude through the Positive Behavior Support program in each school, complex wide. Absenteeism is a behavior that can be corrected when all stakeholders work together. When needed, higher-level interventions such as monitoring, counseling and special programs may be necessary to avert court involvement. Should court involvement be necessary, programs supporting a return to daily educational participation will be provided in the best interest of the student.
- We are all responsible to support the procedures and interventions that promote and guide all youth toward meeting the high standards of the Campbell Graduate Profile in preparation of their personal goals and future pursuits.
- Students absent for ten (10) or more days, excluding authorized school activities or medical absences, may be released from school.