

University Laboratory School: A Hawai'i Public Charter School

Admissions Policy

(Governing Board Approved 7/17/14)

University Laboratory School (ULS) is a public charter school serving two interlocking missions: to design and deliver the best possible education to our own students, and to serve the educational research and development community as a seedbed for curriculum research and development. We are the only school in Hawai'i focused on supporting educational research and development, and disseminating educational materials and improvement strategies. With our purposive enrollment, heterogeneous classes, emphasis on innovation and research, and provision of ongoing professional development for in-service and preservice educators, our school serves as an experimental site for teaching, learning, and assessment in grades K–12.

We operate in close partnership with the Curriculum Research & Development Group (CRDG) in the University of Hawai'i (UH) College of Education (COE), serving as a laboratory for researching, developing, and evaluating innovative approaches to improving teaching, learning, and assessment. ULS and CRDG conduct systematic research, design, development, publication, teacher training and related services for elementary and secondary schools in Hawai'i and elsewhere. Over the past 40 years, the ULS-CRDG partnership has produced exemplary programs in science, mathematics, English, Pacific and Asian Studies, marine studies, environmental studies, Hawaiian and Polynesian studies, Japanese language and culture, music, nutrition, art, drama, technology, health and computer education that are used by schools in Hawaii, the U.S. and other countries.

To serve our dual interlocking mission of education research and curriculum development, as well as providing a comprehensive academic program which provides our students the best opportunities to become critical and engaged thinkers, our school enrolls about 450 students, comprising a cross section of Hawai'i's diverse population, from kindergarten through grade 12. Students are selected by lottery to create a student body evenly distributed by gender that reflects the ethnic distribution of Hawai'i, and includes a broad range of student academic achievement and family socioeconomic levels. Further criteria are that parents must be willing to have their children participate in the research and development activities of ULS–CRDG and students must be willing participants.

Each year 10 students are admitted to kindergarten, and 46 students are admitted to grade 6. Applications are accepted for all grade levels, but openings are rare in grades other than kindergarten and 6.

Families are informed of the opportunity to seek enrollment in the school through announcements in the public media. The application period opens in mid-October and closes in mid-January. Application materials and timelines are available on the school Website (www.universitylaboratoryschool.org/ See Admissions page) or by calling the school admissions line (808-956-7844).

Families are notified of their children's admission status by late-February. Parents are required to attend an orientation so they fully understand the expectations and opportunities for their child at ULS.