

Am I Too Late?

What happens when you've missed the regular deadlines?

SO YOU'VE MISSED THE DEADLINE TO APPLY TO A PRIVATE school. Maybe you're a military family or you've transferred to the Islands after application deadlines. Is all hope lost? Probably not. Many Hawai'i private schools accept applications year round in what is known as rolling admissions. Several schools, though it's not often publicized, have second enrollment periods after their initial deadlines.

In fact, admission directors from 65 out of 89 schools said parents could apply throughout the year. As long as space is available, students can enroll. The other 24 schools adhere to specific deadlines.

Both 'Iolani School and Lutheran High School have two enrollment periods. 'Iolani's first deadline is in December, the second is in April. "The intent was originally for military and Mainland transfers," says Patricia Liu, 'Iolani's director of admissions. At the end of May, new applicants are considered, along with students on the wait list from the first round.

Lutheran accepts students until the beginning of August. If there is still space, a second enrollment starts in January, after winter break.

"Be attentive to the application deadlines," says Punahou's admissions director, Betsy Hata. Not all schools have a second admissions season, and some schools may not have many openings remaining. "When parents have missed the regular deadlines for admission," says Hata, "it's worth a phone call to contact the admissions directors or to come in to explain the special circumstances for a late application."

Catholic schools are an option for families getting a late start in private-school admissions. Carmen Himenes, superintendent of Hawai'i Catholic Schools, points out that many parish schools and some private Catholic schools have rolling admissions policies. "Parents need time in their search, and the parish schools have more flexibility in allowing that," says Himenes.

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