



6. When will I receive my child's results?

Your child's score report for the spring 2016 HSA-Alt will be sent to your child's school at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. The report will show your child's scores in Reading and Mathematics for grades 3 through 8 and 11 and in Science if your child is enrolled in grades 4, 8, and 11.

7. How are the HSA-Alt results used?

Your child's score results can be used to:

- Help the teacher plan instruction;
- Help parents understand the academic expectations for their child; and
- Assist the IEP team in developing measurable standards-based annual goals and objectives.

8. What can I do to support my child?

- Make sure your child comes to school ready to learn.
- Assist the school in learning about your child.
- Review your child's HSA-Alt results with your child's teacher to decide if any changes need to be made to your child's program.

Do you need more information?

Visit: alohahsap.org

Additional information is also available from the Hawai'i Department of Education, Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Assessment and Accountability Branch, Assessment Section, at 808-733-4100

Hawai'i State Alternate Assessment Parent Brochure 2015-2016

1. What are the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessments and who takes them?

The HSA-Alt is a system of assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in a school curriculum that includes academic instruction as well as functional life skills.

The HSA-Alt assessments consist of a series of performance tasks that allow students to respond in a variety of ways, such as pointing and eye gazing to the correct response; selecting objects or pictures or picture symbols that represent the correct answer; or reading letters, words, or sentences to complete a task. The tasks are linked to the Common Core State Standards and/or Hawai'i State Content Standards through the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessment extensions.

Students in grades 3–8 and 11 are administered the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessments in Reading and Mathematics, and students in grades 4, 8, and 11 take the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessment in Science.



Hawai'i
Department of Education



2. Why should students with significant cognitive disabilities participate in academic instruction and assessment?

The primary reason to teach academic content to students who also require instruction in functional and life skills is to promote equal opportunity to receive the same educational opportunities that all students receive. Educators are finding that once this opportunity is provided, many students gain useful skills that benefit them now and in the future. Students may not master all of the grade-level content, but they may master some content for their grade level. The HSA-Alt provides a way for them to demonstrate this mastery.

There are also laws that require all students to participate in academic instruction and assessment. Both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 1997 and IDEA 2004) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), require that states provide an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities that is linked to grade-level academic content standards. The state Education Accountability Act of 1988 (EAA) specifies that all students must be included in state accountability systems.

3. What are the benefits of the HSA-Alt?

The HSA-Alt provides the following benefits for students and educators:

- Allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in academics as they relate to the Common Core State Standards in reading and mathematics and to the Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards in science. The HSA-Alt assesses academic content that is taught at your child's grade level.
- Provides families and teachers with scores that reflect the knowledge and skills of students. This allows teachers to use score information to focus your child's IEP goals and daily instruction on academic expectations.
- Reduces the time burden on teachers who administer the test because the assessments do not require teachers to collect student evidence; instead, students are required to respond to tasks/items or prompts.

4. What are the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessment extensions?

The HSA-Alt is based on extensions from the academic content standards.

The purpose of the extensions is to enable students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in the HSA-Alt to access the general academic standards *in a* less complex way.

After the extensions were written by a committee of special education teachers and test development specialists, the HSA-Alt assessments were developed. The HSA-Alt assessments contain a series of tasks, which in turn, include several items related to each activity. The tasks are similar to classroom academic activities and are designed for all students with significant cognitive disabilities to participate in a variety of ways. In this way, each question on the HSA-Alt is linked to the extensions at the appropriate grade level.

5. When will the HSA-Alt be administered?

The HSA-Alt will be administered from February 19 - May 26, 2016. The assessments will be administered to your child during these 14 weeks.

