

HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines

If an IEP team is considering the use of the HSA-Alt for a student as a means of participating in the state assessment system, four participation criteria must be met.

Criteria	Indicate Yes or No
(A) The student demonstrates significant cognitive disabilities that may be combined with limited adaptive skills, physical or behavioral limitations and requires a highly specialized educational program with intensive modifications and accommodations for access to the general academic curriculum.	
(B) The student’s daily instruction on the chronologically age appropriate academic content standards and the grade level benchmarks is substantively different from that of peers without disabilities, as evidenced by the intensity of supports necessary to access the general curriculum, the content and/or complexity level of the expectations for performance, and/or the difficulty of the instructional tasks. (In some cases, students who might participate appropriately in the HSA-Alt might not have historically been involved in the grade-level general curriculum based on academic content standards and benchmarks.)	
(C) The student requires intensive direct instruction in multiple contexts to accomplish the acquisition, application, and transfer of knowledge and skills.	
(D) The student’s difficulty with the general academic curriculum demands is due to his or her significant cognitive disabilities and not to social, cultural or environmental factors; expectation of poor performance; or excessive absences.	

Three documents are provided to assist an IEP team in completing this task. The documents include this Participation Criteria Checklist, the Participation Guidelines – Questions and Examples, and the Decision Making Flow Chart. All three documents can be found in the Resources section of the HSA-Alt portal at www.alohahsap.org.