



Informational Brochure for Complex Area Superintendents and School Administrators

From February 20, 2018 through May 31, 2018, the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessments (HSA-Alt) will be administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities. The information in this document is designed to help Complex Area Superintendents and School Administrators prepare their schools and staff to successfully administer the HSA-Alt to students.

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

The HSA-Alt is designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in a school curriculum that includes academic instruction as well as functional life skills. Identification for the Alt is based upon HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines. In order for a student to participate in the Alternate Assessment all four participation criteria in the State Guidelines must be met.

The HSA-Alt consists 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 state academic content standards through the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessment content specifications.

Students in grades 3-8 and 11 take the HSA-Alt in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, and students in grades 4, 8, and 11 take the HSA-Alt in Science.

2. What are the HSA-Alt Content Specifications?

The HSA-Alt is based on content specifications linked to the content standards. These content specifications are used to provide students with significant disabilities access to the alternate assessment. The content specifications for ELA and mathematics are based on the Hawai'i Common Core Standards. The content specifications for science are based on the Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards (HCPS III).

Checklist to help prepare teachers to administer the HSA-Alt

Step 1 Ensure teachers become familiar with the content standards. Teachers should teach these content standards to their students.

Step 2 Teachers should meet with the IEP team to identify, confirm, or overturn HSA-Alt eligibility; accessibility supports for testing will also need to be considered.

Step 3 Ensure new Test Administrators attend one of the face-to-face trainings in late January/early February 2018, to learn how to administer the HSA-Alt if they are administering the assessments for the first time (exact dates TBA).

Step 4 Teachers need to schedule time to administer the HSA-Alt and prepare student-specific materials, such as assistive technologies.

Step 5 Ensure teachers administer the HSA-Alt during the February 20 - May 31, 2018 testing window.

For more information about
the HSA-Alt, go to:
alohahsap.org.





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3. Who developed the current HSA-Alt?

The HSA-Alt was designed by special education and content experts at the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) and the American Institutes for Research (AIR). The collaborative teams included both (a) experienced assessment item writers with a background in education and expertise in the assigned content area and (b) specialists in alternate assessment with experience teaching students with significant disabilities. Members of these collaborative teams were trained on aspects of task, item, and test design that are unique to students with significant cognitive disabilities. The work was reviewed at various stages by Hawai'i special and general education teachers, state level Department of Education staff, editorial staff, bias and sensitivity experts, psychometric experts, and other specialists in alternate assessment and instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

4. How can parents be encouraged to have students participate in the HSA-Alt?

- Ensure that teachers understand that all students with significant cognitive disabilities are required by law to take the HSA-Alt and that teachers convey this information to parents.
- Tell teachers in your schools that they may not encourage parents to inform the school that they do not want their child to participate in the HSA-Alt; rather, it is their professional responsibility to encourage opportunities for students to demonstrate their academic knowledge and skills by participating in the HSA-Alt.
- Explain to parents the benefits of their child participating in the HSA-Alt as outlined in the HSA-Alt Information Brochure for Parents, which is available at www.alohahsap.org.

5. How will the current assessments impact teachers?

The HSA-Alt is easier for teachers to administer and use for a number of reasons.

- The HSA-Alt requires less preparation time because teachers will administer the assessments online, using an iPad interface.
- The HSA-Alt offers more efficient, accurate scoring of the assessment because the assessment is scored, automatically, as it is being administered using an iPad. Scores are automatically entered into an online system.

6. Will there be training for teachers on the current assessments?

Face-to-face, statewide trainings will be held for Test Administrators if they are administering the assessments for the first time, and the Support Team, in late January/early February 2018 in various locations (exact dates TBA).

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the HSA-Alt, go to:
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7. What are the important dates I should share with the district support team and teachers?

The chart below lists the important dates for the 2017-18 school year.

Date	Time	Event
Late January/Early February 2018	8:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m	Training for Test Administrators and Complex Area Support Teams in various locations (exact dates TBA).
February 20 – May 31, 2018	School hours	HSA-Alt Testing Window*

*Testing windows vary within this time frame, depending on content area or test type.

8. When will schools and parents receive students' score reports?

A teacher and a student will be able to view the student's scores online or on the computer screen immediately after the TA has submitted the assessment for scoring. Students' score reports for the spring 2018 HSA-Alt will be sent to schools at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. Grades 3-8 and 11 students will receive a combined HSA-Alt ELA and Mathematics score report. Grades 4, 8, and 11 will receive a separate HSA-Alt Science score report.

9. How are the HSA-Alt score results used?

Scores from the HSA-Alt can be used to:

- help teachers adjust instruction for each student.
- help parents understand their child's current level of academic performance for each of the content area assessments.
- assist the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team in determining the appropriate content standards that will be included in a student's new set of annual goals and objectives based on areas of strength and need indicated in the HSA-Alt results.

10. Where can I find additional information about the HSA-Alt?

For additional information, you may:

- contact the Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Assessment and Accountability Branch, Assessment Section, at 808-733-4100;
- visit alohahsap.org;
- contact the Hawaii Statewide Assessment Program Help Desk at 1-866-648-3712 or send an email to hsaphelpdesk@air.org.

