

Hawaii State Assessment- Alternate (HSA-Alt) Participation Guidelines

Four criteria form the basis for alternate test participation in Hawaii. A student with an IEP must meet all four criteria in order to be considered for the HSA-Alt or the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. This evidence-based checklist should be used by IEP teams when making an alternate test student identification decision for either the HSA-Alt or the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.

Criteria	Yes	No	Evidence
(A) The student demonstrates significant cognitive disabilities that may be combined with limited adaptive skills, physical, or behavioral limitations.			
(B) The student requires a highly specialized educational program with intensive modifications and supports in order to access grade level academic standards.			
(C) The student's daily instruction is substantively different from that of their peers without disabilities and requires extensive, repeated individualized instruction and support, across multiple settings.			
(D) The student's difficulty with the demands of the general academic curriculum is not due to social, cultural, or environmental factors; expectation of poor performance; or excessive absences.			

Reference: "An Introduction to Alternate Assessments" H. Kleinert, R. Quenemoen, M. Thurlow from *Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*. 2010.

Decisions for determining participation in a Hawaii alternate assessment must not be based solely on any of the following:

1. A disability category or label
2. Low reading level/achievement level
3. English Language Learner (ELL) status/Native language difference
4. Expected poor performance on the general education assessment
5. Impact of student scores on school test results
6. Anticipated student's disruptive behavior
7. Anticipated emotional distress
8. Educational environment or instructional setting
9. Percent of time receiving special education
10. Services that the student receives
11. Need for accommodations
12. Administrator decision

Additional HSA-Alt Student Identification resources are available within the HSA-Alt portal at www.alohahsap.org; these are Factors and Red Flags on the Road to HSA-Alt Student Identification, Decision-making Questions with Case Study Examples and the HSA-Alt Decision-making Flow Chart.