



HSA-Alt Guidelines for Read Aloud, Test Reader

When a student cannot access the human-recorded audio presentation of stimuli and items provided on the HSA-Alt, the student may be eligible to work with a test reader. A test reader is an adult who provides an oral presentation of the assessment to an eligible student. The student depends on the test reader to administer the assessment as it was intended to be delivered. This requires different procedures for different parts of an item.

For the passage, stimuli, and prompt, the test reader must read or present the information that appears on-screen exactly as it is presented. For the Paper Response Cards, the test reader must first listen to the audio-presentation of the answer options prior to oral re-delivery. The test reader may replay the audio as needed. This is a requirement since Paper Response Cards do not always match the digital script that is presented with the answer option. For example, a Paper Response Card may show a PicSym of a girl, but when digitally presented the option will be audio-delivered as: “the main character is a girl.” In this case, without listening to the answer option first through the digital interface, the test reader will not know how to present the Paper Response Card correctly in the way that was intended for this particular item. To ensure standardized test administration across all forms of the assessment, it is required that test readers listen to the audio of answer options prior to re-delivery.

Close attention and strong reading and listening skills are test reader requirements. It is essential that the test reader accurately reproduces the visual and audio digital presentations, pronounces words correctly, and speaks in a clear voice throughout the test. The test reader must be trained and qualified and must follow the Hawai'i Statewide Assessment Program (HSAP) *Guidelines for Read Aloud, Test Reader* that are presented here and were adapted from the *Smarter Balanced Guidelines for Read Aloud, Test Reader*. The guiding principle in reading aloud is to ensure that the student has access to test content and that the assessment is administered with fidelity.

The Read Aloud accommodation is intended only for students who are unable to listen and comprehend the standard human-recorded audio presentation for the HSA-Alt. For information on documentation requirements for the Read Aloud accommodation, please see the *HSA-Alt Summative Test Administration Manual* pages 46-51.

Qualifications for Test Readers

- The test reader must be DOE certificated employees who have HSA-Alt test administrator certification.
- Test readers must be trained on the administration of the assessment in accordance with state policy, and be familiar with the terminology and symbols specific to the test content and related conventions for standard oral communication.
- Test readers must read the HSA-Alt Read Aloud Guidelines, familiarize themselves with the Read Aloud policies that are specific to the HSA-Alt, and prepare to administer the assessment using these guidelines.
- Test readers must be trained in accordance with HSAP test administration and security policies and procedures as articulated in the administration manuals, guidelines, and related documentation for each assessment and exam.

Preparation

Test Readers are allowable on HSA-Alt Assessments as a **documented accommodation** for all items.

- Test readers must read and sign the *HSA-Alt Test Security and Confidentiality Form* located in Appendix M of the *HSA-Alt Summative Test Administration Manual*, prior to test administration.
- Test readers are expected to familiarize themselves with the test environment and format in advance of each test session. Having a working familiarity with the test environment and format will help facilitate the reading of the test.
- Test readers should have a strong working knowledge of the embedded and non-embedded accessibility and accommodations options and features available on HSAP assessments.
- Test readers should be familiar with the Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 Plan (if applicable) of the student for whom they are reading to ensure that the student has access to any additional universal tools and/or accommodations that might be needed for testing.
- In addition to a test reader, students may make use of any other approved specialized tools or equipment during the test as appropriate and in accordance with the *HSA-Alt Summative Test Administration Manual*. Test readers should be familiar with any assistive technology or approved supports the student requires.
- Test readers should have extensive practice in providing read aloud support and must be familiar and comfortable with the process before working directly with a student.
- Test readers should be knowledgeable of procedures for reading aloud text by content area (see Table 1 below).
- Test readers should meet with the student in advance and inform the student of the parameters of the support. A suggested test reader script is included at the end of the Guidelines for Read Aloud, Test Reader.

General Guidelines

- Test reader's support should be provided in a separate setting.
- Read each passage, stimuli, or question exactly as written.
- Listen to the answer option card audio delivery before re-presenting; follow the script that is heard during audio delivery of an answer option.
- Communicate in a neutral tone; maintain a neutral facial expression and posture.
- Avoid gesturing, head movements, or any verbal or non-verbal emphasis on words not otherwise emphasized in the text.
- Avoid conversing with the student about test questions as this would be a violation of test security; respond to the student's questions by repeating the item, words, or audio delivery verbatim, as needed.
- Do not paraphrase, interpret, define, or translate any items, words, or answer option scripts as this would be a violation of test security.
- Adjust your reading speed and volume as needed.

Post-Administration

- Collect test reader audio delivery answer option script notes, student scratch paper, rough drafts, and login information immediately at the end of each test session and deliver it to the Test Coordinator in accordance with HSAP state policies and procedures.
- Do not discuss any portion of the test with others.

Suggested Test Reader Script (to be used with student in advance of the day of testing)

Hi _____ ,

I am the person who will be reading your test to you when you take your HSA-Alt test next week in [ELA/Math/Science]. I want to let you know how we will work together. When I am reading a test to you, it is very different from when a teacher is reading to you during class time. I have to follow certain rules.

- I cannot help you with any answers.
- I will not be using different character voices or changes in my tone when I read. I will be using a very direct voice that does not change very much, no matter how exciting the story or test item gets.
- If there is a picture that has words in it, I will read those words. If you ask, I will re-read the words as well.
- Sometimes there may be something about a word or phrase that might give you a hint if I read it out loud. In those cases, I will skip the word, point to it on the screen, and continue to read.
- I can still help you with your [**list any assistive technology that the student may require that would need adult support -- if that support is provided by you].
- You can ask me to re-read parts of the test if you did not hear me or need more time to think.
- You can ask me to pause my reading if you need to take a break.
- You can ask me to slow down or speed up my reading, or read louder or softer if you are having trouble understanding what I read.
- I will only read certain types of punctuation, but if you need me to re-read a sentence and tell you how it was punctuated, I can do that.
- If you ask me a question about the test all I will say is: "do your best work. I cannot help you with that."
- Do you have any questions for me about how we will work together during the test?