



HSA-Alt Fall 2016
Independent Field Test for Writing
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet

1. When is the HSA-Alt online Fall 2016 Independent Field Test for Writing (Writing IFT)?

The HSA-Alt online Fall 2016 Independent Field Test for Writing (Writing IFT) test window will open on September 26th and will close on October 28th.

2. Is the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT available as a paper/pencil exception?

No, the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT will not be available as a paper/pencil test exception. Students who are eligible to take the paper and pencil form of the HSA-Alt will not need to participate in the field test.

3. Which students should be tested during the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT?

HSA-Alt eligible students in Grades 4-9 and Grade 12 should take the online Fall 2017 Writing IFT during the September 26th – October 28th testing window via the online test delivery system (TDS).

4. How many items will students need to take for the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT?

There will be two tasks, each with eight items, in each grade band/grade level test (Grades 4-6, Grades 7-9, Grade 12). Each student will be administered all items in each of the two tasks for their grade band/grade level.

5. What types of items are on the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT? Will my student be required to enter text into the online testing system?

Students will not need to enter text into the online testing system. All items in the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT will be multiple choice items, similar to the items currently used in the operational HSA-Alt Assessments. Students may select the answer directly or may indicate their answer options to the TA using their usual communication modalities, for TA selection. TAs may review the writing subject area content specifications for each grade band/grade level in the [HSA-Alt ELA Test Specifications](#) document. The content specifications are available on the http://www.alohahsap.org/HSA_ALT portal.

6. How does the Test Administrator (TA) access the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT?

The online Fall 2016 Writing IFT will be accessed using the same testing systems as the operational HSA-Alt Assessments. TAs will need to create a live testing session by selecting the "Writing" test subject under "HSA-Alt" in the TA Live Site, then log the student into the Secure Browser on the iPad (or other testing device). Please see the *Guide to Navigating the Online HSA-Alt Administration* manual for full instructions on accessing the TA Live Site, setting up a testing session, and logging students into the HSA-Alt tests via the Secure Browser on the iPad (or other testing device). This manual will be available on the http://www.alohahsap.org/HSA_ALT portal in early September 2016.

7. Will scores be reported for the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT?

No, scores will not be available or reported for the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT. The data from this field test will be used to determine the difficulty level of each of these items for use in the operational tests.

8. Will the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT count for state accountability purposes?

No, the online Fall 2016 Writing IFT will not count for state accountability purposes.