



## 6. When will I receive my child's results?

Your child's score report for the spring 2021 HSA-Alt will be made available to your child's school at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. The report will show your child's scores in ELA and Mathematics for grades 3 through 8 and 11 and in Science for students in grades 5, 8, and 11.

## 7. How are the HSA-Alt results used?

Your child's score results can be used to:

- Help teachers plan instruction;
- Help parents understand the academic expectations for their child; and
- Assist IEP teams to determine the appropriate performance level expectations for the student for the next cycle of annual goals and objectives

## 8. What can I do to support my child?

- Make sure your child comes to school ready to learn
- Assist the school in learning about your child
- Review your child's HSA-Alt results with your child's teacher to decide if any changes need to be made to your child's program

## Do you need more information?

Visit: [alohahsap.org](http://alohahsap.org)

Additional information is also available from the Hawai'i Department of Education, Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, Assessment and Accountability Branch, Assessment Section, at 808-307-3636

# Hawai'i State Alternate Assessment Parent Brochure 2020–2021

## 1. What are the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessments and who takes them?

The HSA-Alt is the Hawaii state summative assessment specifically designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Students who take the alternate assessment must meet the state criteria for identification. Criteria include the significance of cognitive impairment and the need for modified program, intensive support, and specially designed instruction. For more information, see the HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines at [alohahsap.org](http://alohahsap.org).

Hawaii's alternate assessment is based on reduced grade-level expectations linked to the Hawaii Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. These standards are reduced in the HSA-Alt so that students with significant cognitive disabilities have access to the test content and are able to demonstrate understanding.

HSA-Alt-identified students take the English Language Arts and Mathematics content area tests in grades 3-8 and 11, and the Science content area test in grades 5, 8, and 11.





## 2. Why should students with significant cognitive disabilities participate in academic instruction and assessment?

The primary reason to teach academic content to students who also require instruction in functional and life skills is to promote equal access to the same educational opportunities that all students have a right to receive. Educators are finding that once this opportunity is provided, many students gain useful skills that benefit them now and in the future. Students may not master all of the grade-level content, but they may master some content for their grade level. The HSA-Alt provides a way for them to demonstrate this mastery.

There are also laws that require all students to participate in academic instruction and assessment. Both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 1997 and IDEA 2004) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), require that states provide an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities that is linked to grade-level academic content standards. The state Education Accountability Act of 1988 (EAA) specifies that all students must be included in state accountability systems.

## 3. What are the benefits of the HSA-Alt?

The HSA-Alt provides the following benefits for students and educators:

- Allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in academics as they relate to the Common Core State Standards in ELA and mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards in science. The HSA-Alt assesses academic content that is taught at your child's grade level.
- Provides families and teachers with scores that reflect the knowledge and skills of students. This allows teachers to use score information to focus your child's IEP goals and daily instruction on academic expectations.
- Reduces the time burden on teachers who administer the test because the assessment does not require teachers to collect student evidence; instead, students are required to respond to tasks/items or prompts.

## 4. What are the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessment Range Performance Level Descriptors ?

The HSA-Alt is based on Range Performance Level Descriptors Essence Statements that serve as links to the academic content standards. The purpose of the Range Performance Level Descriptors is to help provide students with significant cognitive disabilities access to the alternate assessments.

After the Range Performance Level Descriptors were written by a committee of special educators and test development specialists, the HSA-Alt assessments were developed. The HSA-Alt assessments contain items designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Items vary in difficulty and allow students to demonstrate understanding in a variety of ways.

## 5. When will the HSA-Alt be administered?

The HSA-Alt will be administered from February 16 – May 28, 2021. The assessments will be administered to your child sometime during these 15 weeks.

