

## HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines Evidence-based Checklist

Four criteria form the basis for HSA-Alt participation. A student with an IEP must meet all four criteria in order to be considered for the alternate assessment. This document may be used as both a working definition of: “Students With a Significant Cognitive Disability” and as a four-point checklist for providing evidence of meeting/not meeting Hawaii State criteria for HSA-Alt participation.

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.

In addition to the Evidence-based checklist above, two other documents: Decision-making Questions with Case Study Examples and Decision-making Flow Chart are also available to assist IEP teams identify students for the HSA-Alt. All three HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines are available as resources within the HSA-Alt portal at [www.alohahsap.org](http://www.alohahsap.org).