



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

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

The HSA-Alt online Spring 2016 Independent Field Test for Writing (Writing IFT) test window will open on April 25th and will close on May 26th.

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

No, the online Spring 2016 Writing IFT will not be available as a paper/pencil test exception. Students who will be administered the Spring 2016 operational HSA-Alt Assessments in paper/pencil format will not participate in the online Spring 2016 Writing IFT.

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

HSA-Alt eligible students in Grades 3-8 and Grade 11 should take the online Spring 2016 Writing IFT during the April 25th – May 26th testing window via the online test delivery system (TDS).

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

There will be one task with eight items in each grade band/grade level test (Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grade 11). Each student will be administered all either items in the task, depending on their grade band/grade level.

5. What types of items are on the online Spring 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 Spring 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 known communication modalities, for TA selection. TAs may review the writing subject area extensions for each grade band/grade level in the [HSA-Alt Reading Extensions](#) document. The extensions are available on the http://alohahsap.org/HSA_ALT portal.

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

The online Spring 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 is available on the http://alohahsap.org/HSA_ALT portal.

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

No, scores will not be available or reported for the online Spring 2016 Writing IFT.

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

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

9. Will there be another Writing IFT in Fall 2016?

Yes, there will be another Writing IFT administered in early Fall 2016. Full details are pending and will be communicated to Test Administrators, Test Coordinators, and schools as soon as the information is available.