



Assessment News

December 4, 2015

Top News This Week

1. Smarter Balanced Assessments Training for NEW Test Coordinators

The Assessment Section, in the Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, will provide Smarter Balanced Assessments training for new test coordinators in January and February 2016. These one-day training sessions are intended for test coordinators who are new to the position and did not attend the January 2015 Hawaii Statewide Assessment Program training. Complex area staff, principals and experienced test coordinators may attend on a space-available basis.

The training sessions will be held on various dates and locations throughout the state from January 22 through February 18, 2016. The training will begin at 8:00 a.m. and finish at 3:00 p.m. Public school and public charter school participants are to attend the training being held in their school's district.

DATE	DISTRICT	TIME	SITE
January 22 (Friday)	Windward	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	McKinley Community School for Adults
January 25 (Monday)	Honolulu	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	McKinley Community School for Adults
January 28 (Thursday)	Maui*	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Maui Community School for Adults
February 2 (Tuesday)	West Hawaii	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	West Hawaii Civic Center 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
February 9 (Tuesday)	East Hawaii	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Hale'olelo
February 12 (Friday)	Kauai	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Kauai (TBD)
February 16 (Tuesday)	Leeward	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	McKinley Community School for Adults
February 18 (Thursday)	Central	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	McKinley Community School for Adults

*** Airfare will be provided for new test coordinators from Molokai and Lanai to attend a training session.**

The online registration form for each training may be accessed by following the link found at the Hawaii Smarter Balanced portal: <http://alohahsap.org/> > Smarter Balanced > Spring 2016 Smarter Balanced Test Coordinator Training. The registration deadline is **Friday, December 18, 2015**. Molokai participants are to register for the training session on Maui. Lanai participants may register for

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the session of their choice that will be held at the McKinley Community School for Adults in Honolulu. Registrants will receive an automated confirmation email that verifies the online registration has been successfully completed (Note: This automated message does NOT indicate confirmation of participation). If an automated confirmation email is not received within 24 hours of submission of the online registration form, contact Emily MacGillivray at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), (808) 943-3906 or by email at emacgillivray@air.org.

Completing the online request form does not guarantee registration for a training date. The Department's Assessment Section will review the list of requests to ensure new test coordinators are given first opportunity to register. Once confirmed, each registrant will receive a confirmation email from AIR. **Each registrant must receive the AIR confirmation email before attending a training.**

Sign-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the training session will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. A one-hour lunch break is scheduled. Participants may bring their own lunch or purchase food from vendors or restaurants that are within walking distance or a short drive.

Information will be presented about the 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment System. Training will include:

- Participation guidelines
- Test security and ethics
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Interim assessments
- Test administration procedures
 - > Setting up a test session
 - > Beginning the test session
 - > Completing the test session
- Technology requirements
- Online Reporting System and family reports

The training session will end at 3:00 p.m.

A recording of the training will be posted at alohahsap.org by the end of February for review and for viewing by those unable to attend the face-to-face training.

2. Testing Windows for Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

Grades 3-8: February 19 - May 26, 2016 (12 weeks)

Important Update: Grade 11 Testing Window Has Been Expanded

Original Testing Window: April 6 - May 26, 2016 (7 weeks)

Expanded Testing Window: February 19 - May 26, 2016 (12 weeks)

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3. Smarter Balanced Training Tests and Practice Tests

The Smarter Balanced Assessment System includes interim and summative assessments and also provides training tests and practice tests to help prepare students for the interim and summative assessments.

The **training tests** are designed to provide an opportunity for students to become familiar with the software, navigational tools and the item types that make up the Smarter Balanced Assessments. These training tests are available by grade bands (3–5, 6–8, high school) and have approximately eight to nine items per grade-band. The training tests also provide students with an opportunity to experience all of the universal tools and appropriate designated supports and accommodations if administered through the TA Live Site and students log in using the secure browser.

The **practice tests** include a variety of items (approximately 30 items each in ELA and mathematics) as well as an ELA and mathematics performance task at each grade level (3–8 and 11). The *training tests* and *practice tests* are both public and can be taken at any time and place without using the secure browser if desired. They can also be used in the classroom by teachers with students. The answer keys for the *practice tests*, which can be found at <http://alohahsap.org/SMARTERBALANCED/answer-keys/> are also public and can be shared. There are no answer keys for the *training tests*.

4. Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

The **interim assessments** are designed to provide evidence of student progress towards meeting the Hawaii Common Core Standards and support teaching and learning throughout the school year. There are two types of interim assessments: **Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs)** and **Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)**. ICAs are created using the same blueprints as the Summative Assessments and include the same item types and formats, including performance tasks. The ICAs provide overall scale scores, overall achievement level designations, and claim-level information similar to the Summative Assessments. IABs are shorter assessments that focus on smaller sets of targets and, therefore, provide more detailed information for instructional purposes. The IABs provide overall information (above, at/near, below standard) for each block. These ICA and IAB assessments are administered in the TA Live Site by a certified test administrator and students access the assessments using the secure browser. Formative assessment resources in the Digital Library can be used to address students' needs based on their performance.

Teachers who have access to TIDE can view the *interim assessments* using the **AVA** (Assessment Viewing Application) system card which can be accessed via in the Smarter Balanced Resources section at www.alohahsap.org. The primary purpose of AVA is to increase teacher knowledge of the *interim assessments* and the skills and depth of understanding expected of students. It is important to keep in mind that the *interim assessments* contain a limited number of items and teaching should not be solely based on the items included in these assessments. They do not provide an exhaustive sampling of the teaching and learning expected in the Hawaii Common Core Standards or of the wide variety of items students might need to answer for any given Hawaii Common Core Standard or Smarter Balanced target being assessed during the *summative assessment*. The full variety of item types with examples can be found in the Item Specifications on <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/#item>.

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There are a number of other important factors to keep in mind when using the *interim assessments*. These include the fact that:

1. the assessments are fixed form (all students see the same items and will see them again if the assessment is taken multiple times);
2. there is item overlap between the *ICAs* and *IABs* (numerous items appear in both an *ICA* and an *IAB*); and,
3. the assessments are “non-secure but not public.”

Depending on a school or teacher’s goals and purposes for administering the *interim assessments*, there may be a decision to engage teacher teams and/or students in discussions and reflection about the *interim assessment* experience including the discussion of items and student responses. This is allowed, however, because the assessments are fixed form and there is item overlap, this will limit the validity of those assessments as an indicator of student progress towards meeting the Hawaii Common Core Standards. Also, if *interim assessment* items are reproduced, care should be taken to ensure they do not become public.

5. ACT Assessments

ACT Aspire (Grades 8, 9, and 10)

ACT Aspire Assessments for Grades 9 and 10

For School Year 2015-2016, secondary public and public charter schools have the option of administering the ACT Aspire Assessments to their grades 9 and/or 10 students. If your school has not yet notified the Assessment Section of the administration decision, please call or email Kuaanaai Lewis at 808-733-4100 or via Lotus Notes at kuaanaai_lewis@notes.k12.hi.us.

ACT Aspire "Writing" Assessment for Grades 8-10

For School Year 2015-2016, secondary public and public charter schools will administer the English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science assessments with the option of administering the "Writing" assessment to the grades 8-10 students. If a school chooses to administer the optional "Writing" assessment, there will be no added cost to the school as this assessment is included in the state contract. If you have questions regarding these assessments, please call the ACT Aspire Customer Service at [888-802-7502](tel:888-802-7502) or email at ACTAspire_Implementation@ACTAspire.org.

ACT Aspire Training Questions and Answers (QA) Form

The ACT Aspire Training Team, in collaboration with the Department's Assessment Section, is in the process of creating a list of Questions and Answers (FAQs) based on questions participants asked during the four-day training that was held at the McKinley Community School for Adults in Honolulu from November 30 - December 3, 2015. This list of FAQs will be posted to the ACT Testing: Hawaii website on the ACT Aspire Homepage at <http://www.act.org/aap/hawaii/aspire.html> before the end of December 2015. The list of FAQs will provide helpful information that schools can use in preparing for the administration of the ACT Aspire Assessments during the March 1-31, 2016 testing window.

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The ACT (Grade 11)

Test Administration Training Videos

ACT posted the Test Administration Training videos to the ACT Testing - Hawaii website on The ACT Homepage at <http://www.act.org/aap/hawaii/act.html> for review by each school's Test Coordinator and school level staff members who will assist with the administration of The ACT Assessment. Test Coordinators and school level staff members may access the videos in the "Test Administration Training" section. ACT will provide more information about two call-in Question and Answer sessions about test administration that will be held during the months of January and February 2016. If you have questions regarding The ACT Assessment, please contact The ACT Customer Service at 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 or by email at [Contact Us](#).

6. In the News

- [‘No Child Left Behind’ Replacement Plan Shifts Power to States on Education](#) (Wall Street Journal)
- [ESEA Reauthorization Coasts Through House; Next Stop: U.S. Senate](#) (Ed Week)
- [No Child Left Behind Rewrite Proposal Targets High School 'Failure Factories'](#) (Ed Week)
- [New federal education bill to allow more state control](#) (Inforum)
- [New Iowa state test is ‘smarter’](#) (Daily Globe)
- [CA Leads Drive to Reverse Focus on Standardized Tests](#) (CA Political Review)
- [New assessment tests for Maine students to be rolled out](#) (Central Maine)
- [Schools prepare for parents to opt out of state tests](#) (Register Guard)
- [Teachers of the Year: Online Assessments Improvement over Previous State Tests](#) (The Journal)
- [Ask the Superintendent: Smarter Balanced Assessments explained](#) (Boone News Republican)
- [OUR OPINION: Give Common Core time to close the 'honesty gap'](#) (Grand Forks Herald)