



Assessment News

January 8, 2016

Top News This Week

1. ACT Assessments

The ACT (Grade 11)

Important Update Regarding Inclusion of the Writing Test In the Spring 2016 ACT Administration

Based on requests from schools, parents, and students to continue the inclusion of the Writing Test in the grade 11 ACT Assessment, all schools will be required to administer the Writing Test in addition to the English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science tests during spring 2016. The University of Hawai'i System has required students to submit writing test scores as part of the admissions process since 2005 which is why the Hawai'i Department of Education included the Writing Test in the spring 2013, 2014, and 2015 administrations of the ACT Assessment. The benefit of providing free writing test scores for students is the basis of the decision to continue administering the Writing Test. ACT's scoring package for states that administer the grade 11 assessment to all enrolled students requires that the same set of tests be administered to each student. Therefore, the administration of the Writing Test cannot be made optional for individual schools. The Writing Test will add 40 minutes to the total testing time for the ACT Assessment. The cost of the additional Writing Test will be paid for by the Department.

Test Administration Q&A Session

On **Monday, December 21, 2015**, ACT emailed a message to each secondary public and public charter school's ACT Test Coordinator that contained information regarding the Question and Answer session that will be held on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 2:30 - 3:30 pm**. Prior to the Question and Answer session, ACT Test Coordinators and school level staff members who will assist with the administration of the ACT Assessment should review the Test Administration Training videos that are posted to the ACT Testing-Hawaii website on the ACT Homepage at <http://www.act.org/aap/hawaii/act.html>. The training videos can be accessed via the section titled "Test Administration Training."

Ordering Test Materials

On **Monday, January 5, 2016**, ACT emailed a message to each secondary public and public charter school's ACT Test Coordinator that contained information regarding submitting the enrollment count for grade 11 via Pearson Access Next. The enrollment count information will help ACT's staff ship the adequate number of materials to each school for the spring 2016 administration of the ACT Test. The email message includes information about how enrollment is used to determine test material amounts, guidelines on how to submit enrollment counts, the date when enrollment counts are due, and contact information for the ACT Customer Service. ACT General Inquiries Customer Service can be contacted between 3:00 am and 1:00 pm at 800-553-6244, ext. 2800 or [Contact Us](#) for more information.

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ACT Aspire (Grades 8, 9, and 10)

ACT Aspire Training Questions and Answers (FAQ) Form

The ACT Aspire Training Team, in collaboration with the Department's Assessment Section, is in the process of completing 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 January. 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.

2. Spring 2016 HSA-Alt Test Coordinators Webinar Information

The HSA-Alt Spring 2016 Test Coordinators Webinar will be held on **Thursday, January 14, 2016, from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.** Check the "Recent Announcements" section of the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessments Homepage at http://alohahsap.org/HSA_ALT/ for further details.

3. HSA-Alt Test Administrators WebEx Office Hours

Regular "office hours" will begin on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 3:00 p.m.** for HSA-Alt Test Administrators. An email invitation to this webinar will be sent to all HSA-Alt Test Administrators. Information can also be found on the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessments Homepage at http://alohahsap.org/HSA_ALT/.

Both webinars listed above will be recorded for later viewing. The webinars can be found in the "Resources" section of the Hawai'i State Alternate Assessments Homepage at http://alohahsap.org/HSA_ALT/ in the "Webinars" folder.

4. Smarter Balanced Digital Library Spotlight Webinars

The Digital Library Spotlight Webinar and Forum series—featuring the **Illustrative Mathematics** series and the **Supporting Students with Disabilities** series—continued this past week. In case you've missed any (or want to share them), you can stream or download the following:

Maximizing Access to Instruction and Testing for Students with Disabilities to Improve Achievement:
[stream](#) or [download](#)

Investigating Grades 6 & 7 Ratio and Proportional Relationship Standards with a New Desmos Activity,
Tile Pile: [stream](#) or [download](#)

Spotlight Webinars are facilitated by national experts and innovative practitioners, and they highlight Digital Library resources related to timely and relevant topics. For more information about the series, including dates for the upcoming webinars, download the flyers below.

[Illustrative Mathematics Series flyer](#)
[Supporting Students with Disabilities Series flyer](#)

Please contact the Assessment Section at (808) 733-4100 if you have any questions about the information included in this update.

" 'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia - No task is too big when done together." (Hawaiian Proverb)