



Assessment News

January 15, 2016

Top News This Week

1. ACT Assessments

ACT Aspire (Grades 8, 9, and 10)

Important Update Regarding the Spring 2016 ACT Aspire Administration for Grades 8, 9, and 10

THE GRADE 8 ACT ASPIRE ASSESSMENT IS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR STRIVE HI ACCOUNTABILITY PURPOSES. Therefore, beginning SY 2015-16, the administration of the ACT Aspire assessment in grades 8, 9, and 10 is optional for secondary public and public charter schools. Schools that choose to administer the ACT Aspire are required to administer the assessment grade-level wide for each grade tested. Principals are encouraged to discuss their decision to administer the ACT Aspire assessment with their Complex Area Superintendent since the value of the ACT assessments are, in part, to promote a K-12 approach to college and career readiness. The Department will cover the costs to administer these assessments. Each secondary school test coordinator is required to notify the Assessment Section of the school's decision to administer the ACT Aspire assessments by contacting Kuaanaai Lewis at 808-733-4100 or via Lotus Notes email.

ACT Aspire Portal Enhancements

On **Wednesday, January 13, 2016**, the ACT Aspire Team implemented new enhancements to the ACT Aspire Portal. To learn more about the enhancements, click <https://actaspire.tms.pearson.com/> to access the Enhancement Demo videos. Click on the green bar titled "Launch" within the "Enhancement Demo" box to access the videos. If you have any questions regarding the enhancements, call the ACT Aspire Customer Service at 888-802-7502 (M-F 2:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Hawai'i Standard Time).

Reminder Regarding Setting Up Test Sessions for Paper Testing

Friday, January 29, 2016 is the due date for secondary public and public charter school ACT Aspire test coordinators to have created and completed the setting up of the various test sessions for the spring 2016 administration. If you have any questions regarding the creating of test sessions, call the ACT Aspire Customer Service at 888-802-7502 (M-F 2:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Hawai'i Standard Time).

The ACT (Grade 11)

ACT Test Administration Q&A Session PowerPoint

The ACT Test Administration Q&A Session was held on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016**. The PowerPoint for the session will be posted to the ACT Testing: Hawaii website on the ACT Homepage at <http://www.act.org/aap/hawaii/act.html> for school-level staff to review. If you have any questions, call the ACT Customer Service at 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 (M-F 3:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Hawai'i Standard Time).

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Important Information for Schools Who Will Administer the ACT Online

Friday, January 29, 2016 is the due date for Checkpoint #2. ACT sent an email message to schools in December 2015 regarding a survey that schools must complete for Checkpoint #2. If you are unable to locate this email message, go to the ACT Testing: Hawaii link on the ACT Homepage at <http://www.act.org/aap/hawaii/act.html>. Click on Checkpoint #2 under the heading "Forms and Related Links." If a school does not complete Checkpoint #2, that school will automatically be reverted to paper testing. If you have any questions, call the ACT Customer Service at 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 (M-F 3:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Hawai'i Standard Time).

2. HSA-Alt Requesting a Paper / Pencil Test Kit Exception

The HSA-Alt for Reading, Mathematics, and Science will be available in paper/pencil test kit form in spring 2016 as an approved exception **only**. TAs who would like to request approval of this exception for one or more of their students will need to contact their school TC. TCs will be responsible for requesting approval of this exception for any HSA-Alt eligible student in their school who is physically unable to test using the online Test Delivery System on their iPad.

All paper/pencil exception requests should be submitted by February 5, 2016 in order to ensure on-time delivery of the test kit materials to schools prior to the opening of the HSA-Alt test window on February 19, 2016.

Training on how to administer the Paper/Pencil version of the HSA-Alt for first time Test Administrators will take place on Oahu on Friday, February 12, 2016. Register online through a link on the website: http://alohahsap.org/HSA_ALT.

For additional information about administering the HSA-Alt using a paper/pencil test kit, including the use of Second Raters, see the *HSA-Alt Paper/Pencil Directions for Administration* manual available on the HSA-Alt portal at alohahsap.org.

3. Reminder Regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessments Training for NEW Test Coordinators

There are still open slots available to register for the Smarter Balanced Assessments Training for new and/or returning Smarter Balanced Test Coordinators. The training will provide a review of the basic administration procedures for the Smarter Balanced assessments. Please click on this link <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zuii4ejab&oeidk=a07ebx67wh4ed2d2ea3> to register. If you have any questions regarding the training, call or email Karen Tohinaka of the Assessment Section at 808-733-4100 or via Lotus Notes at karen_tohinaka@notes.k12.hi.us.

4. Smarter Balanced Digital Library Fact Sheet

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library Fact Sheet has been updated. Click on this link to access the fact sheet: <http://alohahsap.org/SMARTERBALANCED/wp-content/uploads/Smarter-Balanced-Digital-Library-Information.pdf>. This fact sheet contains helpful information that schools can use to prepare for the administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments.

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5. Smarter Balanced Online Test Delivery System

The Online Test Delivery System will be offline on **Monday, January 18, 2016** and **Tuesday, January 19, 2016** for maintenance. This downtime was not anticipated until recently and was first announced on January 8, 2016. We apologize for any inconvenience this downtime may cause.

6. In the News

- [An award-winning teacher explains why PARCC, Smarter Balanced are the kind of tests students should take](#) (The Hechinger Report)
- [New exams mean new approach to standardized practice testing in SoCal schools](#) (SCPR)
- [Why tests like PARCC do a better job of measuring student understanding](#) (NJ.com)
- [Teachers want to dump tests](#) (CT Post)
- [SAT to replace Smarter Balanced as Delaware's 11th grade standardized test](#) (NewsWorks)
- [SAT replacing Smarter Balanced Assessment for high school juniors](#) (Milford Beacon)
- [Future of standardized testing being reviewed by state superintendent's commission](#) (MetroNews)
- [WV testing panel eyes replacohg Smarter Balanced with ACT](#) (Charleston Gazette-Mail)
- [Testing reduced for high school juniors](#) (Valley Journal)

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

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

(Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)