



Assessment News

October 28, 2016

Top News This Week

1. School Contacts List for Schools Not Using Lotus Notes

Test coordinators at schools using an email service OTHER than Lotus Notes (such as gmail), are required to login to the DOE's Intranet and go to the [School Contact](#) list to verify that the preferred email addresses are accurately entered for all Assessment Team members, i.e., test coordinator(s), technology coordinator, curriculum coordinator, SSC, etc., to ensure that Assessment Section communications reach these individuals in a timely manner.

When transmitting documents or emails that include personally identifiable information (PII), encrypted Lotus Notes emails are required and are created and viewed using the Lotus Notes application. Test coordinators and others at the school who may need to send or view PII such as individual student information will need to be able to access their Lotus Notes email account using the Lotus Notes application. The DOE's [Customer Service Desk](#) (808-564-6000 or 8-1-808-692-7250) can assist with questions regarding access to a Lotus Notes email account.

2. Student Non-Participation Report for All Statewide Assessments

REMINDER: All public and public charter schools are to account for all non-participant students for the 2015-16 Hawaii Statewide Assessment Program by providing reasons for non-participation. Smarter Balanced test coordinators received an email message with an attached spreadsheet listing the students who did not participate in one or more of the 2015-16 statewide assessments. If a test coordinator did NOT receive an email with a non-participant spreadsheet then that TC's school has accounted for all of the non-participant students in the tested grades.

Some school test coordinators have asked for clarification regarding the meaning of the "Yes" and "No" fields in the file. The "Yes" means that the student was a "Non-Participant" and the reason why the student did not take one or more of the tests must be indicated. The test coordinator will need to follow the directions included in the email message to return the completed spreadsheet to hsa/sas/hidoe@notes.k12.hi.us by the **October 28** deadline. The file name, which includes the School ID code, should NOT be changed in any way.

3. Simplified Test Directions

A new non-embedded designated support has been added to statewide assessments. Simplified Test Directions is a support that is now allowable across all tested grades for the Smarter Balanced and other statewide assessments. For more information about this support, please see the [Guidelines for Simplified Test Directions](#).

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4. TIDE Training Module Now Available

The TIDE Training Module is now available in the Resources pages for the [Smarter Balanced](#), [End-of-Course Exams](#), and the [HSA-Alt](#) assessments. The TIDE Training Module provides an overview of the Test Information Distribution Engine and is designed to help users navigate the system.

5. Directions for Administration for HSA Science and EOC Exams

Test coordinators are to ensure that test administrators for the End-of-Course Exams and the HSA Science assessments read the official Directions for Administration to students before they begin each test session. The Directions for Administration are located on page 29 of the [HSA Science Assessments and EOC Exams Test Administration Manual](#) posted on the [Resources](#) page at <http://alohahsap.org/>.

6. HSA-Alt Test Coordinator Manual

The [2016-17 HSA-Alt Test Coordinator Manual](#) has been posted to the [HSA-Alt](#) section of the HSAP website. This manual includes information about policies and procedures for test administrators, test coordinators, and others involved in test coordination and administration of the 2016-17 Hawai'i State Alternate Assessments.

7. HSA-Alt Mobile Secure Browser Support

AIR now supports HSA-Alt testing on iOS 10 using the current [Mobile Secure Browser](#) on iPads. The Online HSA-Alt Training Tests can now be accessed by users on iPads running iOS 10. Please be sure that the latest version of the Mobile Secure Browser is running on iPads used for HSA-Alt test administration. The [Secure Browser](#) download is linked at <http://alohahsap.org/>.

8. Supported Operating Systems for The ACT and ACT Aspire

The secure browser used for the online administration of The ACT and ACT Aspire is not currently supported for the latest operating system (OS) for Mac laptops and desktops (OS X Sierra) and iOS 10 for iPads. The ACT and ACT Aspire technical teams are working to resolve this issue. If you have already updated to these operating systems and find that your devices are not working with the secure browser, ACT has suggested that you may have to work with Technical Support at Apple to revert to the previous operating system prior to test administration beginning February 28, 2017. Android devices are currently not supported for The ACT and ACT Aspire.

9. Email Updates for The ACT and ACT Aspire

Some test coordinators for The ACT and the ACT Aspire assessments have reported that they are not receiving communications from The ACT and/or the ACT Aspire. If an ACT test coordinator is not receiving email notifications of training sessions, webinars, etc., from ACT then that TC is asked to check his/her junk mail or SPAM folders. If it is determined that the ACT communications are not reaching the ACT test coordinator, the school principal or Smarter Balanced test coordinator should update the [School Contact](#) information for the ACT test coordinator on the HIDOE Intranet.

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10. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Technology Webinars

A series of webinars for WIDA ACCESS test coordinators and technology coordinators will be provided in preparation for the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online assessment. A [Pre-Testing: New in WIDA-AMS & User Accounts](#) webinar will be provided on Tuesday, November 8th and a [Pre-Testing: Test Scheduling](#) webinar will be provided on Tuesday, November 15th. New WIDA ACCESS test coordinators are encouraged to attend these webinars to familiarize themselves with the WIDA-AMS system and test scheduling. Recordings of these webinars will be posted at the [WIDA.us](#) website as they become available.

11. 2015 NAEP Science Results

The recent release of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) science results for [2015](#) cited Hawaii as one of 14 states (plus the Department of Defense schools) to make significant gains in both grades 4 and 8 (see table below). While Hawaii's gains exceeded the national gains, the average scale scores remain significantly lower than the national average. For more information about the NAEP assessments and results, contact Robert Hillier via Lotus Notes or at (808) 733-4100.

2015 NAEP Science

Assessment	Metric	Hawaii Score	Gain from 2009	US Public Score	Gain from 2009	Difference US Public – Hawaii
Grade 4 Science	Average Scale Score	145.81	6.08	152.76	4.02	6.95
	% At or Above Proficient	30.44%	5.90	36.52%	4.17	6.08
	% At or Above Basic	69.49%	6.75	75.03%	3.86	5.54
Grade 8 Science	Average Scale Score	144.06	5.54	152.89	4.23	8.83
	% At or Above Proficient	23.04%	5.76	33.09%	4.05	10.05
	% At or Above Basic	58.10%	7.83	66.65%	5.78	8.55

12. In the News

- [PARCC and Smarter Balanced are building better Standardized Tests](#) (U.S. News and World Report)
- [DOE Touts Improvement in Smarter Balanced Test Results](#) (Hawaii Free Press)
- [Federal Judge Rejects Anti-SBAC Lawsuit](#) (www.idahoednews.org)
- [Students improve in all grades and subjects on state tests](#) (www.theseattletimes.com)

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

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you" B.B. King