



Assessment News

December 2, 2016

Top News This Week

1. Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

Interim assessments are currently available to help provide evidence of student progress towards meeting the Hawaii Common Core Standards and to support teaching and learning throughout the school year. There are two types of interim assessments available - Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs) and Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs). The ICAs are created using the same blueprints as the summative assessment, with similar score reports. The IABs are smaller assessments that focus on smaller sets of targets and provide more detailed reports to help guide instruction. Both assessments are administered using the [TA Live Site](#) linked at the alohahsap.org portal.

Score reports for the interim assessments can be viewed at the [Online Reporting System](#) (ORS). Teachers may also view more detailed information and test items using the [AVA System](#) (interim Assessment Viewing Application). The primary purpose of AVA is to provide access to students' answers to interim test questions so that teachers can review and develop a deeper understanding of student instructional needs. It is important to note that the interim assessments contain a limited number of items and instruction should not be solely based on the items included in these assessments.

2. Assessment Section Webinar Recordings

Recordings of previous Assessment Section webinars are available on the alohahsap.org website in the Resources > [Trainings and Webinars](#) section and also on the DOE Intranet on the [Assessment Section](#) page (login required).

3. Hand Scoring Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments: Student Responses that Cause Concern

During the course of hand scoring Interim Assessments, it is possible that scorers may encounter student responses to questions that raise sufficient concern to necessitate some action to ensure student safety. Topics that may require the scorers to take action include, but are not limited to, student references to: suicide, drug use, extreme depression, extreme violence, sexual assault or physical abuse, and self-harm or intent to harm others. If a response contains information indicating a potentially troubled student or crisis, the scorer should print the response and contact their test coordinator, school counselor, or principal *immediately* in accordance with school policies.

4. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online User List

To help maintain the security of student information, school ELL test coordinators should review the list of

Assessment News

December 2, 2016

WIDA users assigned to their schools on an annual basis and inactivate any user accounts associated with teachers and/or staff who are no longer employed at their school and update other user accounts as needed. The process of inactivating and editing WIDA users should be part of every school's annual WIDA user management process. ELL test coordinators may search for all users in their school in wida-ams.us by going to the [User Administration tab](#) (login required), and clicking on "Find User." Users who are no longer at the school or who no longer require access to WIDA should be inactivated by clicking on the "Inactivate" tile in the Action column of the user list.

5. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online Headsets

A set of 30 headsets will be provided for each school that is participating in the Early Adopter Program for the *Online* WIDA ACCESS (schools with over 100 students taking the test will receive 60 headsets). The headsets will be shipped directly to each school from the vendor this week. ELL test coordinators should notify the staff in charge of receiving shipments that the headsets are on the way and that they should be stored in a secure location until the ELL test coordinator picks them up. The headsets are intended for use in computer labs used for online testing - including labs that are used for Smarter Balanced, HSA Science and EOC Exam testing. ELL test coordinators should coordinate the use of headsets with their technology coordinators.

6. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online TSM Installation

ELL test coordinators should communicate with technology coordinators to ensure that the [TSM software](#) has been installed and configured using the Device Toolkit *prior* to the installation of the [INSIGHT Secure Browser](#) so that students can practice and familiarize themselves with the use of this technology. School technology coordinators may experience long download times when installing the initial test content for the TSM software. Download times have been reported to range from several hours to overnight. It is recommended that technology coordinators plan adequate time for initial content download prior to the start of the test window on **January 17, 2017**. The TSM should be left on at all times during the testing window (January 17 to February 28, 2017) as content updates may occur during the night. Subsequent content updates are smaller and will take much less time.

7. NAEP Work Sessions

NAEP work sessions will be conducted from **December 5 to December 19, 2016** by Robert Hillier of the Assessment Section. Test coordinators at participating schools have already been notified that they have been selected to participate in NAEP testing and should have received a schedule of work sessions. Test coordinators at participating schools who have not received the schedule of work sessions should contact Robert Hillier via Lotus Notes email, or call the Assessment Section at (808) 733-4100.

8. In the News

- [Many Students "Stop Out" of High School, Studies Find](#) (Edweek.org)
- [Smarter Balanced, MetaMetrics Partner to Provide More Specific Info About Students' Reading Abilities](#) (Smarterbalanced.org)
- [The Kapa'a Way Delivers](#) (hawaiipublicschools.org)

Assessment News

December 2, 2016

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

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." Malcolm S. Forbes