



Assessment News

April 1, 2019

Top News This Week

Smarter Balanced

1. Testing Incident Report Form

Test coordinators should immediately report any testing incidents (irregularity, impropriety, or breach) to their administrator and the Assessment Section using the [Testing Incident Report Form](#). Follow the return instructions on the form. Guidelines for identifying and handling the various testing incident scenarios, including which ones to report, are described in the [Smarter Balanced Summative Test Administration Manual 2018-19](#).

2. Guidance for Opt-Out Requests

The Hawaii Department of Education does not have an official "opt-out" policy for students or parents to opt out of taking the required statewide assessments. Refer to the [May 31, 2018](#) and [December 4, 2018 HIDOE memos](#) for those students who are exempt from participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Test coordinators who received such a request should direct the parent to the school principal. Principals should review the [Opt-Out Guidance](#) located at the Assessment Section's Hawaii DOE [Intranet](#) site before communicating with the parent.

3. Online TA Certification

Those who experience problems with the [Online TA Certification Course](#) (e.g., logging in, printing certificate of completion, etc.) should contact the HSAP Help Desk at 1-866-648-3712 or hsaphelpdesk@air.org. Please have the following information available to assist with troubleshooting: type of computer, operating system (Windows 10, etc.), browser (Firefox, Chrome, etc.), and any error messages that may pop up. To avoid potential issues, please clear your cache and cookies prior to taking the course, click "EXIT" before closing your browser, and complete the course on a desktop or laptop device.

4. Electronic Device Policy

Test coordinators should review and remind test administrators to be actively observant in the test environment for unauthorized use of electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, calculators, etc.) or unauthorized access to the internet other than to use the secure browser. If a student is observed

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with a phone or electronic device before, during, or after the test, the student and the device should be removed from the test environment and escorted to an administrator. The phone should be confiscated and checked for searches for test item answers, pictures of test items or posting to social media immediately. Any release of secure items to social media will constitute a test breach, which may result in the invalidation of the item from the Smarter Balanced test item pool and/or in the school bearing the cost of replacing the item. Test coordinators and test administrators should also actively observe students during testing to ensure that they do not leave the secure browser and access other internet browsers or music players, which are actions that also constitute an irregularity or possibly a breach, should items be posted to social media. Any such incidents must immediately be reported to the principal and the Assessment Section. For additional information, test coordinators and test administrators should review the [Test Administration Manual](#).

5. Designated Supports and Accommodations in TIDE

Test coordinators and teachers should ensure that IDEA-eligible students have the appropriate designated supports and accommodations entered in TIDE prior to testing. To ensure that all students have access to the statewide assessments and receive results that are a fair and accurate estimate of each student's achievement, the statewide summative assessments include embedded and non-embedded accessibility features such as universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations. Universal tools and designated supports are available to all students. Accommodations are available for special education and Section 504 students with a documented need in their IEP/504 plans. *NOTE: The Text-to-Speech (TTS) Designated Support should not be confused with the Text-to-Speech (TTS) TTS Accommodation, since the latter is provided only to a student with a documented reading disability (i.e., dyslexia) for reading passages.* For information about required statewide assessments participation criteria and accessibility features, refer to the [December 4, 2018 HIDOE memo](#). Guidance for evaluating, identifying, and providing universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations for statewide testing can be found in the [Test Administration Manual](#), the [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines](#), and the [Crosswalk of Accessibility Features Across State Assessments in Hawai'i](#), which are available under the [Resources](#) section of the Test Administration page on alohahsap.org.

6. Online Reporting System (ORS) Webinar

The Online Reporting System (ORS) Webinar will provide an overview of this reporting system, including online narrated tutorials and other resources available to assist school personnel with creating student rosters, downloading and printing student reports, and understanding report features. The webinar is scheduled for *Thursday, April 18, 2019* from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The webinar link will be provided under "[Important Dates](#)" on the Smarter Balanced homepage.

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7. English Language Arts Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ELA ICA)

Test coordinators should remind all test administrators and teachers administering the English Language Arts Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ELA ICA) to verify that both the ICA CAT and Performance Task (PT) for the current opportunity are completed and submitted prior to starting a new opportunity for either assessment.

HSA-Alt

8. HSA-Alt Operational Testing Window (Paper/Pencil Form)

The HSA-Alt Operational Testing Window for the paper and pencil form opened on *Wednesday, March 27, 2019*.

HSA Science and EOC

9. Hawaii Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Item Specifications Released

The *item cluster specifications* are designed to guide the work of item writers and the review of item clusters by stakeholders. They can also be helpful to teachers as they implement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and prepare students for the upcoming NGSS assessments. These documents present *cluster specifications* for use with the NGSS. There are specifications for Elementary School Science, to be administered in Grade 5 beginning in Spring 2020, Middle School Science, and the Biology End-of-Course (EOC) Exam. The Elementary School specifications cover Grades 3 to 5 NGSS Performance Expectations (PEs). The Middle School specifications cover Grades 6 to 8 NGSS PEs, and the Biology EOC Exam specifications cover the NGSS high school life science PEs and three related earth science PEs. The [Hawaii NGSS Item Specifications](#) can be found within either the HSA Science or EOC Exams at alohahsap.org in the "NGSS Resources" folder.

10. Spring Testing Window

Eligibility for the [Spring EOC Testing Window](#) will be set in TIDE on *April 2, 2019*. Test coordinators should work with their Assessment Teams (including technology coordinators) to ensure that testing devices have the updated secure browser installed prior to the start of testing, student designated supports and/or accommodations have been entered into TIDE (and eCSSS, if appropriate), and test administrators have been certified. The Spring Testing Window will open on *Monday, April 29*, and close on the last day of school. EOC Exams are to be administered after course completion.

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ACT

11. PreACT Results Webinar

Test coordinators, college counselors, and high school counselors can find a number of resources on the [PreACT web page](#) to assist students, counselors, and teachers with understanding and interpreting PreACT results.

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

"There is no greater education than one that is self-driven." Neil deGrasse Tyson