

Attention Public School Principals, Public Charter School Directors, VPs (involved with testing), Test Coordinators, Technology Coordinators, Student Services Coordinators, and Curriculum Coordinators

(This message is also being sent to Complex Area Superintendents, Complex Area Support Team Leaders, and Information Technology Managers.)

Assessment News

Monday, September 30, 2019

Top News This Week

General Information

1. AIR Systems Downtime

AIR systems will be offline for scheduled system maintenance from 6:00 p.m. Friday, October 11, 2019 to 6:00 a.m. Monday, October 14, 2019.

2. Guidelines for Choosing Text-to-Speech or Read Aloud Accommodations in Grades 3-5

The decision to provide a student in Grades 3-5 with text to speech (TTS) or human read aloud (RA) accommodations as identified in the student's IEP or 504 Plan for the English language arts (ELA) reading assessment passages is a significant decision. This [document](#) supports educators in determining whether TTS or RA for the ELA reading passages is an appropriate support for IEP or 504 students in Grades 3-5.

3. Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines (UAAG) FAQ 2019

This [document](#) mirrors the frequently asked questions found in the [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines \(UAAG\)](#). The UAAG FAQ 2019 document is organized into four sections (general questions, specific questions about universal tools and designated supports, questions about English Learners (ELs), and questions about students with disabilities) to assist districts and schools to understand the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available for the Smarter Balanced assessments.

4. Accessibility Resources: Test Administration Comparison

This [document](#) provides information on the accessibility resources available for the 2019– 2020 test administration, including a listing of the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations that were available in the 2018-2019 test administration.

5. Instructions for Using Embedded Glossaries

This [document](#) provides instructions on how to access the embedded glossaries. Students who are English learners may benefit from using a Translation Glossary for mathematics tests. These students should have the Translation Glossary option selected in TIDE for the appropriate language. For information on how to determine if this support is appropriate for particular students, refer to the Translation Glossaries section in the [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines \(UAAG\)](#), which can be found under Smarter Balanced > Resources > Accessibility and Accommodations on [alohahsap.org](#).

6. Read Aloud in Spanish Guidelines

This [document](#) provides guidance on how to read aloud the stacked Spanish assessment content in mathematics.

7. Test Coordination Training for NEW Smarter Balanced and HSA Science (NGSS) Test Coordinators

The Assessment Section will conduct a Smarter Balanced and HSA Science (NGSS) Assessments test coordination training in October. This one day training is for **new** test coordinators only. Another training for all Smarter Balanced and Science test coordinators will be held in January/February 2020.

Training sessions will be held on October 21 and October 25, and new test coordinators may register for one of the training sessions. Sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m., the training session begins promptly at 8:30 am and ends at 3:00 pm. The online registration form for each training may be accessed at the following link: <http://bit.ly/Oct19NewTCs> or by clicking the training button on the home page at [alohahsap.org](#). Full information about the training is found in the [September 20, 2019 DOE Memo](#). The registration deadline is *Wednesday, October 16, 2019*.

Smarter Balanced

8. Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Overview 2019-2020

The [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Overview](#) describes the interim assessments, including their purpose, use, and varieties. For each grade and subject, this document provides a list of all interim assessments available for the 2019–2020 school year. The SB Interim

Assessments and supporting tools (TA Live Site, AIR Ways Reporting, and the Assessment Viewing Application) are now all available. Teachers and schools can now administer the Interims to students and see the results in AIR Ways Reporting.

The [Interim Assessments Fact Sheet 2019-2020](#) and [Interim Assessments Test Administration Guide 2019-2020](#) are available on [alohahsap.org](#). The Interim Assessment test blueprints and other resources are located at:
<https://smarterbalanced.alohahsap.org/resources/interim-assessments/>.

9. 2019-2020 TIDE User Guide and TIDE Quick Guide

The [TIDE User Guide](#) and [TIDE Quick Guide](#) are now available in the Resources > Test Administration section on [alohahsap.org](#). The TIDE User Guide provides full instructions on using the TIDE system, including navigating and entering data into TIDE. The Quick Guide offers an overview of the steps for activating your TIDE account, logging into TIDE, and adding user accounts (if allowed).

10. Aligning Accommodation Records

Student Services Coordinators (SSCs) have received information on how to access school accommodation records in two locations, the electronic Comprehensive Student Support System (eCSSS) and the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). The Assessment Section is asking all SSCs to check the eCSSS records of IEP team accommodation selections for state summative testing against the record of verified accommodations for the 2018-19 S.Y. At the next annual IEP/504 team meeting, IEP teams will be asked to examine the summative test accommodation descriptions and recommendations found in the [Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines](#) (UAAG) (available on [alohahsap.org](#)) and to update the eCSSS state summative test accommodation records to match these guidelines.

Note: Both TIDE/eCSSS records currently show the accommodations that were verified/selected for the 2018-19 S.Y. TIDE records of verified accommodations were rolled over for this school year so that students could use these verified accommodations during interim testing. (Starting January 21, 2020, TIDE records will be updated to show only those accommodations that have been verified for the 2019-2020 S.Y.)

11. Recording Designated Supports for IDEA, 504, and ELL Students in eCSSS

IDEA, 504, and ELL students who need designated supports for summative testing will need to have those supports indicated in two record bases: the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and the electronic Comprehensive Student Support System (eCSSS). For information about the specific steps required to log designated supports for these students in eCSSS, go to [alohahsap.org](#) > Resources > Accessibility and Accommodations > eCSSS Directions.

HSA-Alt

12. HSA-Alt Science (NGSS), HSA-Alt Science Test Design and Blueprint, 2019-2020

The [Assessment Blueprints for HSA-Alt Science \(NGSS\)](#) are now available on alohahsap.org. These include the HSA-Alt Science Test Design and Blueprint 2019-2020 along with key changes for SY 2019-2020.

13. Updated HSA-Alt Training Test

An updated version of the HSA-Alt Training Test is now available. Please use this new grade-level training test to prepare your alternate-identified students for the assessment. Examine new item types, practice test-taking skills, and test out student supports before summative testing. Share the training test with parents during annual IEP meetings so that parents become familiar with test performance expectations, format, and response options for students. To access the training test, go to alohahsap.org > HSA-Alt > Students and Families > Training Test.

14. HSA-Alt Guidelines and Documentation

The HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines, Decision Making Questions and Examples, and Decision Making Flow Chart are now available in the Resources > Students and Families folder in the HSA-Alt section of alohahsap.org. These documents, along with the Factors and Red Flags on the Road to HSA-Alt Student Identification, provide information to support IEP team decision-making when considering alternate assessment student identification. There are **four participation criteria that must be met** in order for a student to qualify for the alternate form of the state summative assessment.

HSA Science (NGSS)

15. The NGSS-Aligned Science and Biology 1 EOC Interim Assessments

The Science NGSS-Aligned and Biology 1 EOC Interim Assessments and supporting tools (TA Live Site, AIR Ways Reporting, and the Assessment Viewing Application) are now all available. Teachers and schools can now administer the Interims to students and see the results in AIR Ways Reporting. Teachers using the Assessment Viewing Application should choose Grade 5 to view the elementary interims and Grade 8 to view the middle school interims. The [NGSS Interim Assessments Fact Sheet 2019-2020](#) is available on alohahsap.org.

WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

16. Test Coordination Training for New WIDA ACCESS Test Coordinators

The Assessment Section will conduct WIDA ACCESS Assessments test coordination training in November 2019. This one-day training is for **new** WIDA test coordinators only. Another training will be held for all WIDA test coordinators in December 2019.

Training sessions will be held on November 1 and November 4, and **new** test coordinators may register for one of the training sessions. Sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m., the training session begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. The online registration form for each training may be accessed at the following link: <http://bit.ly/Nov19NewWIDATCs> or by clicking the training button on the home page at alohahsap.org. Full information about the training is found in the [September 20, 2019 DOE Memo](#). The registration deadline is *Wednesday, October 16, 2019*.

The ACT

17. ACT Test Accommodations

The window for submitting requests for accommodations for students who may require accommodations or supports for the ACT will open on *November 4, 2019* and close on *January 10, 2020*. Requests are submitted through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations \(TAA\) system](#). Documentation is available in the [ACT TAA User Guide](#). Questions should be directed to the ACT Accommodations Customer Service line at (800) 553-6244 x 1788. Please keep in mind they are five hours ahead of us.

18. ACT Student Data File

Test coordinators should check with school registrars to confirm that Grade 11 student data for the 2019-20 administration of the ACT is updated in the Student Information System before Thanksgiving break. This information will be used to generate counts and lists of students eligible for the 2019-20 statewide administration of the ACT. Schools may still update student information in [PANext](#) after the Student Data File has been uploaded.

Technology Coordinators

19. Smarter Balanced Supported Operating Systems

For a list of supported operating systems for the 2019-20 school year, technology coordinators should reference the [Operating System Support Plan for 2019-20](#) on the alohahsap.org website.

Please note:

The current AIR Secure Browser will continue to work through the end of the 2019-20 school year. Windows 7 will no longer be supported by Microsoft on January 14, 2020. The 2020-21 AIR secure browser will no longer be operable with Windows 7 devices in the 2020-21 school year. Technology coordinators should discuss with their test coordinators to plan for this.

Chromebooks that have updated to at least Chrome 75 (including those that have reached end of life hardware support) will continue to work with the Secure Browser. AIR will support versions of chrome released at the start of the current school year to the end of the current school year (i.e., Chrome v. 75 will continue to work with the Secure Browser for the 2019-20 school year).

Supported Linux and Ubuntu systems will work with the secure browser, but depending on the hardware, may lack some functionality. The Secure Browser may appear different, and depending on the age/compatibility of the hardware, features such as Text To Speech may not function properly. Technology coordinators and test coordinators should test the functionality of the Secure Browser by administering Interim Assessments through the Secure Browser prior to the start of the test window.

20. INSIGHT Secure Browser for iPads

Apple recently released an update for Operating System iPadOS 13.x, which has introduced a compatibility issue with DRC INSIGHT Secure App for iPads. Schools that plan to administer WIDA ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA Screener using an iPad should **not** install the update and remain on the current version until DRC has fully assessed this new version. If you have already updated your iPad Operating Systems to 13.x, additional information will be provided to you once DRC testing is complete. Announcements from WIDA and DRC will be placed in the Assessment News if any additional actions are required. Please contact **DRC Customer Support** directly with any questions at WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com or **1-855-787-9615**. WIDA and DRC will notify you if any additional actions are required.

"There are many problems, but I think there is a solution to all these problems; it's just one, and it's education." Malala Yousafzai

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