



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, January 4, 2021

Top News This Week

General Information

1. Welcome Back!

The Assessment Section staff would like to extend to you our best wishes for the new year! As we look back at the challenges and hardships we faced last year, we know we have become much stronger, determined, and resilient and we look forward to a better, brighter, healthier New Year!

Smarter Balanced

2. Smarter Balanced Shortened Summative Assessments

The Smarter Balanced summative computer adaptive tests (CATs) have been shortened to 20-25 test questions. These shortened CATs have been designed to be completed in one test session lasting 45-60 minutes. The revised Smarter Balanced Assessments will measure the same standards and provide the same overall score information with reliability and validity. This change to the SBAs is anticipated to reduce the test taking time by 45 minutes per student, on average, for both the ELA and Mathematics assessments. The reduced time for test administration provides more time for teacher-designed instruction and classroom-based assessments to advance student learning and success.

HSA-Alt

3. HSA-Alt Test Administrator Training

HSA-Alt Test Administrators are reminded to secure their substitute teachers for our upcoming January 2021 training. The HSA-Alt Test Administrator training will be conducted virtually (via Webex) on the dates/times listed below. To register, use this [link](#) or <https://bit.ly/Sp21AltTAs>. Registration closes on *Friday, January 8, 2021*. For more information on the training, refer to the [December 8, 2020 memo](#).

January 2021 HSA-Alt Test Administrator Training Sessions

DATE	TIME	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
January 18 (Monday)	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Martin Luther King holiday (stipend provided)
January 22 (Friday)	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Regular school day (substitute provided, if needed)
January 26 (Tuesday)	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Regular school day (substitute provided, if needed)
January 28 (Thursday)	3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	After-school (stipend provided)
January 30 (Saturday)	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Weekend (stipend provided)

4. HSA-Alt Student Identification Documents

The documents to assist school IEP teams with the appropriate identification of HSA-Alt students are available on alohahsap.org > HSA-Alt > Resources > General Information. The documents include the following:

HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines - Decision Making Questions and Examples
HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines
HSA-Alt Decision Making FlowChart
Factors and Red Flags on the Road to HSA-Alt Student Identification
HSA-Alt Student Identification Red Flags by IEP Page

HSA Science (NGSS)

5. HSA Science (NGSS) — Grades 5 and 8 Test Window Opens

The Online HSA Science test window will open on *Monday, January 11, 2021* and remain open

until the end of the school year. Students will have two opportunities to take the Grade 5 or 8 Science assessment that covers the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

- Test time is estimated to be approximately 90 minutes.
- Because our current 5th and 8th graders have never taken a summative NGSS assessment, it is very important that students complete the [Training Tests](#). These are not secure tests and students can complete them in school or at home.
- All grade 5 and grade 8 students will have two opportunities for their respective tests. They should complete at least one opportunity but the second is optional. Remember that there will be no results available until achievement standard setting takes place in June 2021.

Further information regarding the new assessments, including parent guides, test blueprints, and sample items, can be found on alohahsap.org under [NGSS Resources](#).

Test coordinators should verify that the secure browser on all student testing devices has been updated to the current version prior to testing. For more information on compatible devices or operating systems, Test Coordinators or Technology Coordinators should refer to the current [Operating System Support Plan](#) on alohahsap.org.

The ACT

6. ACT MyACT Student Portal

Starting spring 2021, all students will use MyACT to complete their non-test information online, as well as designate where to send their scores. Through MyACT, students can complete the information in the classroom, at home, or up to 2 days after testing. For students testing on paper, the non-test items will no longer be bubbled in on the answer document, it must be done online. For students testing online, this task will simply be moving into MyACT (previously completed in Student Web Services (SWS)). This flexibility allows schools to streamline this pretest activity, and determine when and where it is completed. Beginning on January 9, 2021, in the Tests & Prep section students will have an option to take the Official ACT Practice Test.

7. ACT Verify Enrollment Deadline

The deadline to verify enrollment in PANext is *January 15, 2021*. Instructions may be found in the PANext User Guide in the [Configuration](#) section on the ACT Hawaii website. Please refer to the [June 2nd HSAP Memo](#) under the College and Career Readiness Assessments section for eligibility criteria: *This college admissions assessment is to be administered to all students enrolled in grade 11 (as defined by credit count in the Student Information System) who have not been administered the test in a prior year (i.e., students repeating grade 11 who have taken the test in a previous year should not be administered the assessment)*

8. ACT Accommodations Requests Deadline

The deadline to request accommodations for students in the new Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system is *January 8, 2021*. Instructions are available in the [TAA User](#)

[Guide](#). A training video on how to set up an account and request accommodations in TAA is available [here](#).

9. ACT Online Testing With Mac OS

ACT has confirmed that the TestNav Secure Browser used for online administration of the ACT will **not** work on Mac devices using the Big Sur OS (with or without the new M1 chip). Test coordinators should remind their school technology coordinators to not update student test devices to the Big Sur OS. Schools that have new Macs already equipped with the Big Sur OS and that are planning to use these for ACT online administration should look for alternate compatible test devices to use for ACT online administration. Technical support documents can be found in section 2 on the ACT Hawaii page ([Configuration](#)).

WIDA

10. Materials Arrival and Additional Ordering Window

Your state's ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test materials will be delivered on or after *Tuesday, January 5, 2021*. Your Additional Materials Ordering Window begins on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 and ends on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Please work with your RT if you need to order more materials. The initial test materials will be shipped to the address that is listed in [WIDA AMS](#) under Materials > Material Ordering.

11. Test Administrator Certification

The WIDA ACCESS test window opens Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Test Coordinators should verify that all Test Administrators scheduled to administer the ACCESS For ELs Online assessment are certified prior to administering the assessment. Administration of the assessment by a non-certified staff member constitutes a Testing Incident, and may result in the invalidation of student scores.

“Education is the ability to meet life's situations” - Dr. John G. Hibben

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