

Assessment News

Monday, October 18, 2021

Top News This Week

General Information

1. Training and Practice Tests

Training and practice tests are available for the Smarter Balanced Assessments, HSA Science Assessments, and the End-of-Course (EOC) Exams. The short Training Tests are designed to provide students and teachers with opportunities to familiarize themselves with the software, user interfaces, and navigational tools for online assessments. The Training Tests are organized by grade and contain 6 to 10 items.

The Practice Tests include about 30 items similar to the Interim and Summative Assessments, as well as performance tasks, at each grade level. There are also classroom activities to be completed before each of the performance tasks. Training and Practice Tests can be found [here](#) or via [alohahsap.org](#) > Smarter Balanced > Teachers > Student Training & Practice Tests. After completion of a Practice Test, click [End Test] and select "Yes" to continue to the next page. Click "Review My Answers" to check the answer for each question [here](#) or via [alohahsap.org](#) > Smarter Balanced > Students and Families > Smarter Balanced Practice Test Answer Keys. Practice Test Scoring Guides and answer keys are available for the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests (including Text-to-Braille), EOC Exams Practice Tests (including Text-to-Braille), and HSA Science Practice and Training Tests (including Text-to-Braille).

Smarter Balanced

2. Virtual Training on State Test Administration with the Braille Accommodation

The Assessment Section, with its partner Cambium Assessment Inc. (CAI), will conduct a virtual training on test administration with the braille accommodation for teachers of visually impaired students, District Special Education Resource Teachers (RTs), Test Coordinators, and/or other school testing support staff. The same training will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the following two days: October 28 and October 29, 2021 (participants are to attend one of the two days). The training will provide a general overview of test administration with the braille accommodation and answer questions about test administration with braille, using embossers, creating and/or loading braille files, and setting up and configuring assistive technology devices to enable online testing with braille. Also, after the meeting, participants can meet with the CAI staff to address their specific concerns with enabling devices for testing with the braille accommodation. *Please note the training sessions will not be recorded.* To register for either training date, please contact Kathleen Hughes at kathleen.hughes@cambiumassessment.com. The deadline to register for one of the two sessions is Monday, October 25, 2021. Questions about the training should be sent to Elaine Lee by email at elaine.lee@k12.hi.us.

3. Translated Student Interface Messages

The Translated Student Interface Messages (formerly, Translated Test Directions) provide the translations of the test directions for the Smarter Balanced Assessments, HSA Science Assessments, HSA Alternate (HSA-Alt) Assessments, and the End-of-Course (EOC) Exams. A biliterate student or adult can read these directions in conjunction with the online test. Each document contains the English message observed on the computer screen followed by the translation. These documents are available [here](#) or on the [Accessibility and Accommodations resources](#) page on [alohahsap.org](#).

HSA-ALT

4. HSA-Alt Test Window SY 2021-2022

The HSA-Alt test window for this school year will coincide with the Smarter Balanced general assessment test window which is February 22 – May 27, 2022. The paper/pencil form of the HSA-Alt will close on *May 20, 2022*, so that materials may be returned the final week of school. For more information about HSA-Alt testing, refer to the [HSA-Alt Test Administration Manual](#) available on the [alohahsap.org](#) portal.

5. HSA-Alt Training Tests

The HSA-Alt Training Tests offer a range of item types by grade-level, including multiple-choice and animations. HSA-Alt teachers and Test Administrators are encouraged to familiarize their students with the test format and design prior to testing. The Training Test site can be accessed [here](#) or via [alohahsap.org](#) > HSA-Alternate Assessments > Students and Families > Student Training and Practice Tests. Refer to the [Quick Start Guide to the Online HSA-Alt Training Test](#) or via [alohahsap.org](#) > HSA-Alternate Assessments > Resources. Revisit this site for new practice test items that will be available in mid-January 2022.

6. HSA-Alt Test Administration Manual

The HSA-Alt TAM contains updated policies and procedures for this year's test. HSA-Alt accommodations can be set directly in TIDE by school test administrators and test coordinators. The HSA-Alt Test Administration Manual can be accessed [here](#) or via [alohahsap.org](#) > HSA-Alt > Resources > *type in the search bar* "HSA-Alt Test Administration Manual 2021-2022."

7. HSA-Alt Informational Brochures

Informational brochures for Complex Area Superintendents, Principals, HSA-Alt Test Administrators, and Parents are now available online. To access these informational brochures about Hawaii's alternate test go [here](#) or via [alohahsap.org](#) > HSA-Alt > Resources > *type in the search bar* "HSA-Alt Informational Brochures 2021-2022."

8. 2021-2022 Parent IDEA Letter

The Parent IDEA Letter provides information on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements. This letter should be sent home to all HSA-Alt parents prior to the administration of the HSA-Alt assessment. The letter can be accessed [here](#) or via alohahsap.org > HSA-Alt > Resources > *type in the search bar* "Parent IDEA Letter 2021."

WIDA

9. Upcoming ACCESS for ELLs Q&A Webinar

WIDA and DRC will be presenting a [Pre-Testing - Test Scheduling](#) webinar on **Tuesday, October 19, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. HST**. The [recordings for WIDA Q&A Webinars](#) are posted to the WIDA Secure Portal on the Webinars page within a week of the presentation.

The ACT

10. Updated Schedule of Events

The [Schedule of Events](#) for the Spring 2022 ACT administration is now available on the ACT Hawaii website.

11. ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop

Please mark your calendars for the October 21 Hawai'i ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop. The live 90-minute workshop will be presented online at 2:00 pm HST. You may register for the workshop [HERE](#). For additional information about ACT resources that you and your students may find helpful, click [HERE](#).

Educator Resources

12. Social Emotional Learning Resources

New educator social-emotional learning resources are available on the [Tools for Teachers](#) Website. The resources were developed specifically to help educators address their students' social-emotional learning and promote their academic success. The resources make clear the connection between healthy social-emotional skills and academic success, and help educators partner with students and families to support social-emotional development.

The [Tools for Teachers](#) resources are organized into three, 45-to-60-minute professional development modules on self-awareness, self-management, and social awareness. Along with sharing information on the connections among brain functioning, emotions, and behavior, the resources will help educators model self-awareness and self-management behaviors and skills with students.

These social and emotional learning materials add to the already wide range of instructional resources and strategies available on Tools for Teachers.

Log into Tools for Teachers using your TIDE account information. If you do not already have a Teacher (TE) or Test Administrator (TA) role in TIDE, please contact your school test coordinator.

Assessment Section, Hawai'i State Department of Education, (808) 307-3636

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HSAP Help Desk: Phone: 1-866-648-3712 Email: HSAPHelpDesk@cambiumassessment.com