



Assessment News

February 5, 2016

Top News This Week

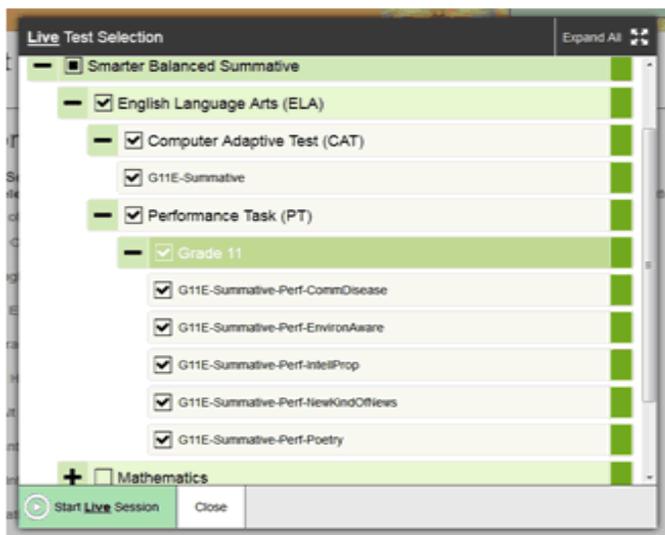
1. Smarter Balanced Test Coordinator Training

Space is still available for the February 16th and 18th Smarter Balanced Test Coordinator Training for new and/or returning Smarter Balanced Test Coordinators. The training provides an overview of the Smarter Balanced assessment system and important test coordinator responsibilities. **(Please note that the location for the February 16th Smarter Balanced training has been changed to Ho'okele Elementary.)** Click on this link to register:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zuii4ejab&oeidk=a07ebx67wh4ed2d2ea3>. If you have any questions regarding the training, call or email Karen Tohinaka of the Assessment Section at 808-733-4100 or via Lotus Notes at karen_tohinaka@notes.k12.hi.us.

2. TA Live Site

The TA Live Site has a new look and feel. When a certified test administrator enters the TA Live Site, the TA will see that more than one Performance Task (PT) appears for each grade level in each of the ELA/Literacy and Mathematics assessments. All PTs that appear for a grade level must be checked so that students in that session may be administered the appropriate PT (see example below). Students in the same grade/classroom will be randomly assigned PTs and if the TA has not selected all of the PTs for the grade level then the student being randomly assigned a PT might not have access to it during the testing session. (This change in test administration procedure is being necessitated by the elimination of the summative classroom activities.) If you have any questions regarding the TA Live Site, call or email Paul Dumas of the Assessment Section at 808-733-4100 or via Lotus Notes at paul_dumas@notes.k12.hi.us.



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3. Email Alerts from the alohahsap.org Website

You may register for email alerts from the alohahsap.org website to receive an email notification when important announcements or new resources have been posted to the site. The account you create for this site is unique and not associated with other systems or portals provided by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) or the Hawai'i Department of Education. Your information will not be used in any way other than to send email notifications regarding new portal content. You may opt out of the email alerts at any time. To register, go the alohahsap.org site and click on **Register for email updates** which is located at the top right corner of the site. Fill in the fields and click **Register**. If you have any questions regarding the email alerts, call or email Ben Meyer of the Assessment Section at 808-733-4100 or via Lotus Notes at ben_meyer@notes.k12.hi.us.

4. Test Delivery System Downtime

The Test Delivery System, which includes the TA Site, will be offline on **Friday, February 12, 2016** for required maintenance. The Grade 4 and 8 Hawai'i State Science assessments will not be available during this downtime and will relaunch on **Tuesday, February 16, 2016** following the Presidents' Day weekend.

5. ACT Assessments

ACT Aspire (Grades 8, 9, and 10)

Reminder Regarding Setting Up Test Sessions for Online Testing

Monday, February 22, 2016 is the due date for secondary public and public charter school ACT Aspire test coordinators to have created and completed the setting up of the various test sessions of the online version for the spring 2016 administration. If you have any questions in regards to the creating of test sessions of the online version, call the ACT Aspire Customer Service at 1-888-802-7502 during the hours of 2:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. M-F Hawai'i Standard Time.

ACT Aspire Parent Letter

The ACT Aspire team has created a parent letter that schools can use to inform parents about the administration of the ACT Aspire in spring 2016. The letter is provided in a Microsoft Word format so that schools have the option of inserting additional information before the letters are sent home to parents of the students in the tested grades. The ACT Aspire team recommends that schools send the letters to parents a few weeks prior to the testing date so that parents can help prepare their children for testing. The Department's Assessment Section sent an email message on **Tuesday, February 9, 2016** to all secondary public and public charter school ACT Aspire and ACT test coordinators which included two attached parent letters. One parent letter is for schools administering the ACT Aspire Assessment (grades 8, 9, 10) and the other parent letter is for schools administering the ACT Assessment (grade 11).

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New Hawai'i Avocet Site

ACT Aspire has launched a new Hawai'i specific Avocet site which has resources and manuals to help schools prepare for the spring 2016 administration of the ACT Aspire Assessment. Click on this link <http://avocet.pearson.com/HawaiiACTAspire/Home> to access the site. Avocet is the ACT Aspire online resource site.

The ACT (Grade 11)

Important Information Regarding the Updated Page Number References in the ACT Administration Manuals

Thank you to secondary public and public charter schools in collaborating with the ACT Team and the Department in regards to incorrect page number references in the three ACT Administration Manuals (Standard Time, Special Testing, Non-College Reportable Accommodations). These pages are part of the verbal instructions that will be read to the students using the "Taking the ACT" booklet during the pretest session. On **Friday, February 5, 2016**, the ACT Team sent an email message with the "Correction Notice" document to all ACT Test Coordinators which included corrective actions to take in the administration of the pretest session. Click on this link <http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/ACT-Manuals-Correction-2016.pdf> to access the "Correction Notice." If you have questions about the updated page references information, please call ACT Customer Service at 1-800-553-6244 ext. 2800 during the hours of 3:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. M-F Hawai'i Standard Time.

ACT Parent Letter

The ACT team has created a parent letter that schools can use to inform parents about the administration of the ACT Assessment in spring 2016. The letter is provided in a Microsoft Word format so that schools may revise before sending home to parents. The ACT team recommends that schools send the letters to parents a few weeks prior to the testing date so that parents can help prepare their child for testing. The Department's Assessment Section sent an email message on **Tuesday, February 9, 2016** to all secondary public and public charter school ACT Aspire and ACT test coordinators which included two attached parent letters. One parent letter is for schools administering the ACT Aspire Assessment (grades 8, 9, 10) and the other parent letter is for schools administering the ACT Assessment (grade 11).

6. NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

The administration of this year's NAEP has mainly involved field-testing in preparation for the 2016-17 administration. From its inception in 1970 through 2015, NAEP has been a paper-and-pencil test. With the 2016-17 school year, it will mainly be administered via tablet computers that the visiting teams will provide. Up to 20% of selected students will still take a paper-and-pencil version to ascertain consistency of results for the same items delivered by different formats. There have been both very positive effects and some need for adjustments. Here are observations in regards to positive effects at schools doing this year's field testing: superb student involvement, improved conditions of testing with smaller groups being assessed at a time, and improved delivery of directions, with directions mainly occurring via the computer with only brief verbal directions from the head proctor. Here are some adjustments that will need to be made: a limited number of students (still to be determined) can be testing at a time, meaning that teams need to run two separate sessions on one day and large schools will probably need to have the assessment on two days, and the testing time will be 105 minutes rather than 90 minutes due to initial practice and tutorials on the tablets.

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Something to also think about ahead of time is whether there are regular classrooms that can be used for the new NAEP rather than tying up the cafeteria and/or library. Obviously, this will vary by the population and facilities at each NAEP school. NAEP State Coordinator, Robert Hillier, will announce the NAEP schools in late May 2016. He will provide the proposed date by early June 2016, and will follow up with each school's testing coordinator in August 2016. In-person trainings in August 2016, to provide an overview and registration, and in December 2016, to complete most of the online planning responsibilities will be provided. If you have any questions regarding NAEP, call or email Robert Hillier of the Assessment Section at 808-733-4100 or via Lotus Notes at robert_hillier@notes.k12.hi.us.

7. In the News

- [State to reimburse costs related to Common Core tests](#) (Ed Source)
- [Teachers want evaluation system changed](#) (Stamford Advocate)
- [Final tally shows few opt-outs from Common Core-aligned tests in California](#) (Ed Source)
- [More state tests are "getting honest" about how few kids are on track for college, but there are outliers](#) (The Hechinger Report)
- [New Data Suggest "Honesty Gaps" Between State-Reported Student Proficiency Rates and State NAEP Scores Are Closing](#) (WVVA)
- [States Are Closing the 'Honesty Gap' in Test Results, Study Says](#) (Ed Week)
- [New Data Suggest "Honesty Gaps" Between State-Reported Student Proficiency Rates and State NAEP Scores Are Closing](#) (PR Newswire)

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

*"If you want life to be good, you have to support the next person. I always want schools to know that we're here to support them."
- Pat Ishimaru*