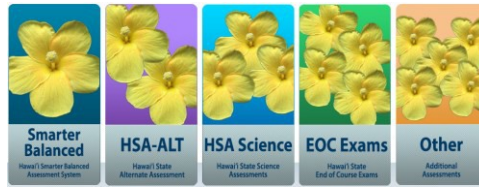




Hawaii State
Department
of Education



HSAP

Hawaii Statewide Assessment Program

Hawaii State Department of Education
[Archived Assessment News](#)

Assessment Section

808-733-4100
hsa/SAS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us

Assessment News

April 3, 2015

Top News This Week

Clarification Regarding When School Level Staff Members Should Call the Hawaii Statewide Assessment Program (HSAP) Help Desk, the Department's Customer Service Desk, or the Department's Assessment Section

HSAP Help Desk

1-866-648-3712

hsaphelpdesk@air.org

Monday-Friday, except holidays

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time

They field questions regarding technical issues related to navigating on any of the online assessment systems and assist in diagnosing the sources of these technical issues , i.e.,

1. Training Sites
 - Practice and Training Tests
 - TA Training Sites
 - Online TA Certification Site
2. Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) where Test Coordinator (TC), Test Administrator (TA), teacher (TE) and student identification information can be accessed.
3. TA Live Site where Test Administrators set up test sessions and give students permission to begin their Interim or Summative Computer Adaptive Tests (CAT) or Performance Tasks (PT).
4. Interim Assessment Teacher Hand Scoring System
5. Online Reporting System where students' completion of the ELA/Literacy and Mathematics CAT and PT tests can be monitored and their scores can be reviewed after they are posted.
6. Digital Library

Department's Customer Service Desk

Oahu Schools: 564-6000

Neighbor Island Schools: Hats # 8-1-808-692-7250

Monday-Friday, except holidays

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

They field questions regarding student information entered in eSIS and eCSSS by elementary school office staff members and secondary school registrars.

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Department's Assessment Section

(808) 733-4100

Monday-Friday, except holidays

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

They field questions regarding -

1. Test Administration Procedures
2. Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations for general education, ELL, IDEA-eligible and 504 students and which ones may be entered in the eCSSS drop down list and the TIDE System by identified school level staff members
3. Test Security Requirements and Procedures
4. Issues forwarded from the HSAP Help Desk staff or the Department's Customer Service Desk staff that were inadvertently submitted to them by school level staff members

Information in the Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual Regarding the Use of Scratch Paper for the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) and the Performance Task (PT) for Both Content Areas

Page 15 in the Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual provides detailed information about exactly when each student's scratch paper needs to have his/her name printed on it and when it must be shredded. This manual is currently posted in the "User Guides" folder on the Smarter Balanced Resources page at alohahsap.org.

[2015 Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual \[pdf\]](#)

This manual includes information about policies and procedures for Test Administrators, Test Coordinators, and others involved in test administration.

Destruction of printed materials and scratch paper

Printed materials from the print-on-demand accommodation and scratch paper must be kept in a securely locked room or locked cabinet that can be opened only with a key or keycard by a Test Administrator or Test Coordinator. All test materials must remain secure at all times. Printed test items/passages, including embossed braille printouts and scratch paper, must be collected and inventoried at the end of each test session and then immediately shredded according to state policies or procedures. **DO NOT** keep printed test items/passages or scratch paper for future test sessions except as noted below for performance tasks (PTs).

Use of scratch paper on performance tasks

The only exception to the requirement governing the destruction of printed materials and scratch paper is when notes are used during the ELA and mathematics PTs.

During the ELA PT, the notes on the embedded universal tool, Global Notes, are retained from Part 1 to Part 2 so that the student may return to the notes even though the student is not able to go back to specific items in Part 1.

While the embedded Global Notes is the preferred mode for note taking during the ELA PT, students may use scratch paper to make notes. To ensure that students using scratch paper for notes have the same allowance as students using the online notes, TAs should tell students to write their names (or some appropriate

identifying information) on each piece of scratch paper, collect the scratch paper at the completion of Part 1 of the ELA PT, and securely store it for students' use during Part 2 of the ELA PT.

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Likewise, the mathematics PT may extend beyond one test session. When this happens, TAs should tell students to write their names on the scratch paper (and graph paper for grades 6 and up), collect the paper used in the first session, and securely store it for students' use in the subsequent test session.



The retention of scratch paper is only allowed for the PTs. Following the conclusion of the PT, all scratch paper and graph paper must be collected, inventoried, and immediately shredded to maintain test security.

Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICA) and Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB) Are Now Available for Access by Staff Members Who Have TIDE Usernames and Passwords

The Assessment Viewer Application, i.e., AVA System, allows users to experience the Smarter Balanced Interim ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments. These assessments can be accessed at <http://alohahsap.org/SMARTERBALANCED/teachers/> by clicking on the Ava System card on the Teachers or Test Coordinators/Administrators page.

The Interim Assessments are one of the three major components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. Teachers can use the Interim Assessments throughout the year to gauge student progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills measured by the Summative Assessments and to assess targeted concepts at strategic points during the school year.

There are two types of Interim Assessments:

- **Interim Comprehensive Assessments** use the same blueprint as the summative assessments, assess the same range of standards, and provide scores on the same scale.
- **Interim Assessment Blocks** focus on smaller sets of related concepts and provide more detailed information for instructional purposes. There are between five and seventeen blocks per subject per grade.

The test items are not secure, and there are no restrictions on the number of times that teachers or students may access these assessments. Although the Interim Assessment items are not secure, they are not public and should not be shared or reproduced. The Interim Assessments should be part of a larger assessment context that includes the purpose of administering an Interim Assessment, how an Interim Assessment will be scored and how the data from an Interim Assessment will be used to improve teaching and learning.

Translated Parent Information Booklets and Parent Letters Are Now Posted on the Smarter Balanced Resources Page

[2014–2015 Smarter Balanced Parent Information Booklet](#)

The Parent Information Booklet (PIB) includes information for the grades 3-8 and 11 Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments and the grades 4 and 8 Hawaii State Science Assessments. Printed copies of one English PIB per student have been delivered to each school during the week of March 2-6.

This Parent Information Booklet (PIB) in English is also available in 14 languages. One translated PIB for identified ELL students whose parents have indicated their home language is a language other than English in the eSIS home language file will be shipped to each school during April 2015.

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<p>2014–2015 Smarter Balanced and HSA Science Parent Letters</p>	<p>Participation and non-participation letters that schools may send to parents along with the Parent Information Booklet about the grades 3-8 and 11 Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments and the grades 4 and 8 Hawaii State Science Assessments are currently available in English and 14 translated languages.</p> <p>These parent letters are Word documents that can be edited by school level staff members. Edits may include a school's testing schedule, principal's signature, and school phone number. If a student is included in two populations, e.g., IDEA-eligible and Home/Hospital Instruction, a customized parent letter can be created by inserting the appropriate text from the parent letter for each of these two populations.</p>
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Most Current Information Regarding the Department's Parent Opt-Out Guidelines

During the Spring Break, the Complex Area Superintendents were given the Department's most current guidelines for parents who request that their child be opted out of the spring 2015 Smarter Balanced Summative ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments. Each Complex Area Superintendent was asked to share this information with the principals at the schools in his/her complex area. A Friday, March 3, 2015 Honolulu Star Advertiser newspaper article included information regarding the Department's guidelines.

School guidelines prevent testing 'opt-outs'

[By Nanea Kalani](#)

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Apr 03, 2015

Parents seeking an "opt-out" for their children from standardized testing now underway in Hawaii public schools are being told that the state cannot grant the requests, according to new guidelines issued to schools.

Citing an advisory opinion from the state attorney general's office, the Department of Education says state law does not allow for opting out of the tests. A few states, including California and Utah, have laws that allow parents to prevent their child from taking standardized tests, while others, like Arkansas and Texas, prohibit opt-outs.

"According to an opinion from the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, students who are educated in Hawaii's public schools must participate in the statewide assessment program," the DOE wrote in its guidelines.

The department says the guidance was prompted by "heightened national efforts by various groups promoting the opting-out of testing." But a spokeswoman said opt-out requests have not been widespread since the Smarter Balanced Assessment testing window opened last month. It wraps up in June.

Some 93,000 elementary and high school students are expected to take the test, which replaces the former Hawaii State Assessment.

Hawaii is among about 30 states that have agreed by this school year to administer new tests aligned to the Common Core standards — academic benchmarks adopted in most states that define, grade by grade, the knowledge and skills students need to graduate from high school ready for college.

The DOE's opt-out guidelines, obtained by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, include a sample letter schools can send to parents who ask to opt out for their children. The letter explains that the department "is not able to honor

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this request" because "there is no federal or state provision authorizing a student to opt-out of required assessments."

The department declined to release the legal opinion, citing attorney-client privilege.

"Hawaii must provide for the participation of all students in annual assessments in accordance with federal education law," DOE spokeswoman Donalyn Dela Cruz said in a statement. "Assessments help inform schools, educators and families on whether students are on track to graduate prepared for college and careers."

At issue is the term "opt out." The DOE acknowledges parents still can refuse to have their child participate, in which case the student would be boycotting the exam, not exempted from it.

The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also known as No Child Left Behind, requires school districts to annually test all students in math and reading in grades 3 to 8, and once in high school.

The federal government requires a 95 percent test participation rate at schools, and states face possible sanctions, including loss of control over federal funding, if the threshold isn't met.

The federal law allows exemptions for students who are unable to attend school due to a medical emergency or condition. And so-called English Language Learner students in their first year at a U.S. school can skip the reading portion of the test.

Under Hawaii's federal accountability waiver from the outdated No Child Left Behind law, student achievement — as measured on standardized tests — has to be used to gauge teacher effectiveness and to hold schools responsible for learning gains.

The high-stakes tests have proved controversial with educators, with some endorsing the more rigorous assessments while others argue test preparations and testing are consuming too much classroom time.

Andy Jones, who teaches 11th-grade language arts at Radford High School, estimates he will have spent one-eighth of the school year — equivalent to 4½ weeks — preparing his students to excel on the Smarter Balanced exam, which Radford will begin administering April 13.

"It's not so much the quality of the material that I'm against. It's the sheer amount of time it's taking up out of the school year," Jones said in an interview. "One-eighth of the school year — I don't think anyone would agree that that makes sense."

He's still debating whether to opt out his teenage daughter from the test next year.

"I'm kind of in a quandary," he said. "Do I go with my conscience ... or do I let her take the test for the sake of her school?"

As other states have begun administering the tests, growing anxiety has fueled a national opt-out movement. Thousands of students across the country are opting out even if their state's laws don't expressly allow it, most notably in Colorado, New Jersey and New Mexico.

Mililani High School teacher Amy Perruso, Hawaii's state leader for the national United Opt Out organization, disagrees with the state's interpretation of federal and state laws related to testing.

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"This raises the conversation to a whole new level," Perruso, who has opted her daughter out of the former Hawaii State Assessment in previous years with no pushback, said of the new guidelines.

"Really, what they're doing with this kind of statement, they're asking for a legal challenge," she said. "As soon as you tell parents that they don't have the right to look out for their child's best interest, that they're legally obligated to subject their child to a test, then parents start to ... I mean, there's already a lot of talk about resistance."

Some teachers say they've been instructed by their principals not to inform students or parents about opting out.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association, the union representing some 12,500 public school teachers, says its members need to balance their free-speech rights with their teaching obligations.

"Unfortunately, this movement is not moving the federal government in any way, shape or form," HSTA Vice President Joan Lewis said in an interview. "Our teachers have to be very careful about what they say and how they say it, being mindful that this is an employer directive. But as citizens they do have every right to inform people."

She added, "At the end of day, there is no consequence to students for not participating in the test, and we hope that our state stays that way."

In the News

National Journal, 3/30/15

Article: "Is Common Core Working? Early Report Gives Very Qualified 'Yes' "

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/policy/insiders/education/is-common-core-working-early-report-gives-very-qualified-yes-20150330>

EdSource, 3/29/15

Article: "New tests to tell juniors if they're college-ready"

<http://edsource.org/2015/new-tests-to-tell-juniors-if-theyre-college-ready/77378#.VRldqvF-nM>

Charleston Daily Mail (WV), 3/29/15

Article: "School assessments to be online, feature adaptive questions this year"

<http://www.charlestondaily.com/article/20150329/DM01/150329141/1300>

EdSource, 3/29/15

Op-ed: "Common Core standards are natural 'next step' "

<http://edsource.org/2015/common-core-standards-are-natural-next-step/77017#.VRIfPTvF-nM>

The Bellingham Herald, 3/29/15

Op-ed: "Our Voice: The latest standardized test has a lot going for it"

http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2015/03/29/4210209_our-voice-the-latest-standardized.html?rh=1

The Oregonian, 3/28/15

Article: "Don't kneecap Smarter Balanced exams before they even begin: Editorial Agenda 2015"

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/03/dont_kneecap_smarter_balanced.html

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Hawaii News Now, 3/27/15

Article: "New student assessments - - Smarter Balanced Assessments"

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/28634702/new-student-assessments-smarter-balanced-assessments>

Resources

Data Quality Campaign Factsheet on Education Data—The Data Quality Campaign produced a report outlining myths and facts about the assessment consortia and data privacy. The comprehensive report "Getting the Facts Straight about Education Data" can be accessed here:

<http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/files/Facts%20about%20EdData-CCSS%20Assessments.pdf>.

CCSS Forward—CCSS Forward, a section of the CCSSO website, is designed to provide updates on new resources and shine a spotlight on state leadership with Common Core implementation. It can be found at

http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS_Forward_State_Resources_and_Success_Stories_to_Implement_the_Common_Core.html.

Khan Academy Common Core resources—Khan Academy has free online resources and exercises that align with the Common Core and that can be personalized to the needs of individual students. The resources can be found at <https://www.khanacademy.org/commoncore>.

A Primer on Common Core–Aligned Assessments—Education First developed a briefing for state policymakers and advocates about Common Core–aligned assessment systems, including Smarter Balanced. The presentation can be found at http://www.education-first.com/files/A_Primer_on_Common_Core-Aligned_Assessments_Education_First.pdf.

Key Facts about the Common Core State Standards—Alliance for Excellent Education publications on the CCSS can be found at the following links: <http://www.all4ed.org/files/CCSSFacts.pdf> and <http://www.all4ed.org/files/CommonCore101.pdf>.

Follow Smarter Balanced on Twitter—Follow @SmarterBalanced for resources and links to the latest news about the Consortium.

Smarter Balanced Hawaii—Information and resources related to the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessments in Hawaii is located at the statewide testing portal: <http://AlohaHSAP.org>.