




STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

January 12, 2021

TO: Deputy Superintendent
Complex Area Superintendents
Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission Executive Director
Principals (All)
Public Charter School Directors (All)

FROM: Rodney Luke 
Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Quality Assurance and Assessment Monitoring Site Visits**

The Assessment Section conducts annual Quality Assurance (QA) site visits to meet with school level staff associated with test coordination and administration to identify and discuss best practices and areas in need of support in the coordination and administration of statewide assessments. These visits are informational in nature, and provide opportunities for Assessment Section staff and designees to assess the effectiveness of trainings and to obtain feedback on how support may be improved in the future. Feedback and shared best practices are welcome, as it allows Assessment Section staff members to share these in trainings so that other schools may benefit from these practices. QA site visits are also an opportunity for school staff to learn about statewide testing requirements and to effectively plan for implementation.

Schools are selected for QA site visits based upon several factors. Some schools are selected randomly while others are selected based upon test administration practices noted in prior years. An Assessment Section staff member works with the school test coordinator to plan the QA site visit that may occur at any time during the school year. A summary of the QA site visit will be made available to the principal upon request.

The Assessment Section also conducts annual assessment monitoring site visits during statewide assessment testing windows to observe test administrations and to gather information from school test coordinators about state assessment administration training, management, and practices. These visits provide an opportunity for Assessment Section staff and designees to see the testing process in action as well as to identify practices and policies where improvements can be made. The information gathered during these visits is used to improve the testing experience of all those involved and to ensure the validity and reliability of the assessment results.

During assessment monitoring site visits, Assessment Section staff and designees observe the extent to which school practices align with state assessment policies and guidance. For example, monitors will note whether:

- All cell phones and other electronic devices are stored in a secure location and are not accessed at any time by students or adults during testing;
- Bulletin boards, posters and other materials containing content-related information are not visible in the testing room;
- Students are properly seated and engaged in the testing process;
- Test administrator follows guidance provided in the Test Administration Manual, e.g., reading the appropriate test directions;
- Documentation of test administrator/proctor trainings such as sign-in sheet lists indicating dates and time of the trainings;
- Students who require testing accommodations are provided those accommodations;
- Students who require designated supports (or other accessibility features, e.g., administrative considerations for WIDA ACCESS) are provided those supports;
- Test administrators and proctors are not interfering with or prompting student responses in any manner;
- Test administrators and proctors are not restricting student progress during testing sessions (i.e., students should not be told to answer only a limited number of questions within a testing session);
- Test administrators and proctors actively engage in monitoring of students during testing; and
- Proper distribution, collection and storage of secure test materials, such as test tickets and scratch paper.

Since any school may be selected for an Assessment Monitoring Site Visit, all public and public charter schools should anticipate the presence of an assessment monitor during the administration of the Smarter Balanced, Hawaii State Assessment (HSA)-Alternate, HSA Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Biology 1 (NGSS), End of Course Exam, KA'EO, The ACT, and the WIDA ACCESS for English Language Learners assessments at any time during the respective testing windows. Assessment monitoring site visits may be unannounced or arranged with minimal lead time to ensure that observations are made of typical practice. Observations of typical test practice will be used to improve test coordinator and test administrator trainings. A summary of the site visit will be made available to the principal upon request.

In light of the COVID-19 situation, Quality Assurance and Assessment Monitoring Site Visits may be conducted virtually via Webex to maintain the safety of all staff and students. Should a site visit be conducted in-person, all Department and school safety protocols will be followed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assessment Section, at (808) 307-3636 or via hsa@k12.hi.us.

RL:bh

c: Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission
Assessment and Accountability Branch