



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

February 12, 2021

TO: Deputy Superintendent  
Complex Area Superintendents  
Principals (All)  
Public Charter School Directors (All)  
Hawaii State Public Charter School Executive Director  
Smarter Balanced Test Coordinators

FROM: Rodney Luke   
Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Statewide Summative Assessments and Accountability, SY 2020-21**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many disruptions to our educational system and many Hawaii Department of Education educators have questions about the expectations for statewide summative assessments and accountability this school year. The information provided below is intended to clarify requirements for this school year.

**Assessment Administration for School Year (SY) 2020-21**

As of the posting of this memo, there are no changes to the requirements for participation or test administration for the required statewide assessments. A [U.S. Department of Education \(ED\) letter](#) dated September 3, 2020 stated that waivers from testing would NOT be approved for SY 2020-21 and that statewide assessments and accountability reporting are to continue as planned. A [Department of Education \(DOE\) Memo](#) was posted on September 18, 2020 to clarify that statewide testing will continue as planned for this school year. The Assessment Section will share ED updates from the new administration as they become available.

Ongoing communication through various means, including the weekly Assessment News, emails, webinars, and trainings, allows the Assessment Section to keep test coordinators and principals up-to-date on current policy which is to administer all required statewide assessments as planned (see [June 2, 2020, HSAP 2020-21 DOE Memo](#)). The Assessment Section will use these communication strategies to share updates from the ED as they become available.

Currently, the [Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Plan for School Year 2020-21](#) remains in place. Students who are distance learning are expected to be tested in-person and on campus.

Support documentation has been shared with the field and additional guidance is being developed that will provide suggestions, tips, and best practices when administering statewide assessments to students in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some guidance documents that have recently been posted to the alohahsap.org portal include the [Hawaii DOE Assessment Considerations for Spring 2021](#), [Hawaii DOE Suggested Guidelines for In-person Test Administration](#), [Parent Letter Template for In-Person Test Administration](#), and the [FAQs Template for School-level Staff](#). The Assessment Section is working with the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design and the Office of Student Support Services, other state DOE agency assessment staff members, providers, and national assessment organizations to ensure that Hawaii's policies, practices, and procedures align with those being implemented across the nation. The Assessment Section is researching the possibility of some form of remote test administration (i.e., testing students in their homes) but please note that a secure test environment must be maintained and establishing that in a home will be extremely challenging.

### **Accountability Processing and Reporting of SY 2020-21 Data**

The Accountability Section will be identifying schools for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) report cards (Comprehensive Support and Improvement and Targeted Support and Improvement) in fall 2021 per the [Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Plan for School Year 2020-21](#). Strive HI School and State Performance results will also be reported. Fall 2021 ESSA school identifications are based on four measures: Proficiency, Growth (elementary, middle/intermediate), Graduation (high), Chronic Absenteeism, and English Language Proficiency for English Learners. Except for Growth, these measures will be calculated as they have been in prior years. The Growth Measure uses the Student Growth Percentile Model for students taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and its Transition Growth Matrix is used for students taking the Alternate Assessment and the Hawaiian Language Assessment. Because Hawaii does not have test results for SY 2019-20, calculating growth will require a modification to both models to implement a 'skip-year' method. Growth for SY 2020-21 will be based on SY 2020-21 and SY 2018-19 test results. Hawaii conducted 'skip-year' analyses to determine the extent such results are comparable to consecutive year growth results, and the results reflect a high degree of association between the 'skip-year' and 'consecutive year' growth results. These results are comparable to other states using the same growth models nationally.

All measures will use SY 2020-21 results. Where official results are available for SY 2019-20, those will be used in identifying Targeted Support and Improvement Schools: Consistently Underperforming. Where official SY 2019-20 results are not available, results from SY 2018-19 will be used. Participation rates are important and will be included in fall 2021 accountability reporting, as appropriate. All accountability reports for SY2020-21 will include cautionary language when comparing SY 2020-21 results with prior years' results. For detailed information, please reference the Accountability document [2021 Accountability Processing & Reporting](#).

We appreciate your continued support and assistance. If you have assessment questions, contact Brian Reiter, Administrator, Assessment Section at <mailto:brian.reiter@k12.hi.us> or call 307-3636. If you have accountability questions, contact Dr. Glenn Nochi, Evaluation Specialist, Accountability Section at [glenn.nochi@k12.hi.us](mailto:glenn.nochi@k12.hi.us) or call 733-4008

RL:br

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