



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

August 14, 2017

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

FROM: *Phyllis Unebasami*  
Phyllis Unebasami  
Acting Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Bridge Assessments for the Hawaii State Science Assessments in Grades 4 and 8 and the Biology 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Exam**

On February 16, 2016, the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) approved the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which replaces the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III (HCPS III) for Science. Teachers and schools across the state are now in the process of implementing the NGSS leading to full implementation by SY 2019-2020.

The Department has provided schools and complex areas with the flexibility to develop and carryout NGSS implementation plans that are appropriate for their particular situations. As a result, the degree of NGSS implementation varies greatly across the system. The Bridge Assessments are intended to provide all students, regardless of the extent to which a school has moved forward with NGSS implementation, with a fair, valid, and reliable test of science knowledge and skills. To accomplish this, the Bridge Assessment will measure only the knowledge and skills found in both HCPS III and NGSS. These assessments will:

- be administered at grades 4 and 8 and at the end of Biology 1. Grades 4 and 8 students will be provided with 2 opportunities to take the Bridge Assessment.
- use items from the current HSA and Biology EOC item banks so the look and feel will be like the current assessments.
- only include items addressing HCPS III benchmarks which align with content that also appears in NGSS at grades 4, middle school earth and space science, and high school life science, respectively. The test blueprints available at [alohahsap.org](http://alohahsap.org) will be updated by the end of June to reflect these changes.
- include NGSS field test items. These items will have no impact on student scores.
- have the same reporting categories and family reports as the current assessments.
- Bridge Assessments will be used for SY 2017-2018 and SY 2018-2019.

The assessments beginning in SY 2019-2020 will be completely NGSS-based. The NGSS assessments will be administered in grades 5 and 8 and as an EOC exam for Biology 1.

- The grade 5 test will cover NGSS performance expectations (PEs) for grades 3 to 5.
- The grade 8 test will cover NGSS PEs for grades 6 to 8.
- The Biology 1 EOC Exam will cover NGSS high school life science PEs and a limited number of earth science PEs that focus on the interactions of living things and earth systems.
- NGSS practice tests will be available starting in SY 2017-2018 so that students and teachers can become familiar with the assessments that will be administered beginning in SY 2019-2020.

In addition to providing all students with a fair and valid test, whether a student is in a HCPS III or a NGSS classroom, the Bridge Assessments ensure that the performance of students and schools is not negatively impacted by moving forward with implementation of the NGSS.

If you have any questions, contact Paul Dumas, Test Development Specialist, Assessment Section, at (808) 733-4100 or via Lotus Notes.

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c: Assistant Superintendents  
State Public Charter School Commission Office  
Assessment Section