




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

OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

April 12, 2018

TO: Complex Area Superintendents
Principals (All)
Public Charter School Directors (All)
School Services Coordinators

FROM: Rodney Luke 
Interim Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Hawaii State Assessment-Alternate (HSA-Alt) Identification Process**

Each year, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team reviews each student's current academic achievement and functional performance to determine the student's participation in the appropriate state-wide assessment(s). When considering the Hawaii State Assessment-Alternate (HSA-Alt), the specific guidelines for student participation must be reviewed.

The HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines contain four criteria that must be met for alternate assessment determination:

- The student demonstrates significant cognitive disabilities that may be combined with limited adaptive skills, physical or behavioral limitations.
- The student requires a highly specialized educational program with intensive modifications and supports in order to access grade level academic standards.
- The student's daily instruction is substantively different from that of their peers without disabilities and requires extensive, repeated individualized instruction and support, across multiple settings.
- The student's difficulty with the demands of the general academic curriculum is not due to social, cultural or environmental factors; expectation of poor performance; or excessive absences.

IEP teams shall use these guidelines to determine participation in the HSA-Alt. Information on the content and design of the alternate assessment, specifically the HSA-Alt training test, item specifications, and Performance Level Descriptors shall be shared with parents, and the IEP team as an integral part of the discussion as to whether the student participates in the general assessment or the HSA-Alt.

For alternate students who exceed proficiency standards in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the HSA-Alt in a given year, IEP teams shall revisit the HSA-Alt

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Participation Guidelines and give careful consideration to recent summative test data that might suggest the regular assessments would be more appropriate.

Schools are responsible for adhering to the alternate identification process described above. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Forbes, Test Development Specialist, Assessment Section, at 808-733-4100 or via email susan_forbes@notes.k12.hi.us. For questions on IEPs, contact Karen Sato, Administrator, Special Education Section, Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Student Support, 808-305-9806 or via Lotus Notes.

RL:sf
Attachment: HSA-Alt Participation Guidelines Examples

c: Board of Education
Assistant Superintendents
Superintendent's Office Directors
Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance