

Home-Schooled Students

A home-schooled student is a student who receives instruction that is provided by parents instead of a Hawai'i public school or public charter school. A student must have Part B checked on the 4140 form to meet the requirement for home-schooled status and be registered at the local public school or public charter school. The parents are required to submit their child's planned curriculum to the local public school or public charter school principal at the beginning of each school year and a report of their child's progress at the end of each school year.

Grade 8: These home-schooled students may participate in the online Hawai'i State Science Assessment free of charge or their parents may use other methods to demonstrate their child's satisfactory progress. See Section 8-12-18, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (Department of Education, testing requirements for home-schooled students).

Grade 4: These home-schooled students' participation in the online Hawai'i State Science Assessment is optional. See Section 8-12-18, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (Department of Education), testing requirements for home-schooled students. These students' participation in the online Hawai'i State Science Assessment at the local public school or public charter school in their geographical area is allowed based on parental requests.

A student's chronological age, adjusted grade placement by a public school or public charter school prior to a student's home-schooled status, or course credits must indicate that the student's current grade placement is 4 or 8 for a student to participate in the online Hawai'i State Science Assessment.

Test Coordinators must complete the Courtesy Testing Request Form in Appendix G of the *Online Test Administration Manual* and fax it to the Assessment Section at 808-733-4483 to request that a student's grade level be entered in TIDE. **Do not ask parents to bring their home-schooled child to your school to be tested until an Assessment Section staff member informs the Test Coordinator that this student can access the secure online HSA Science Assessment.**

The public school or public charter school may also download and print a copy of the optional *Parent Information Booklet* (found on www.alohasap.org) to send to the parents along with the Parent Letter that includes the testing dates for the Hawai'i State Science Assessment. Parents are responsible for securing the necessary details from the principal of the school and for bringing their child to the school on the days when the Hawai'i State Science Assessment is being administered. Schools should not provide separate testing schedules for these students.

For the purposes of assessment, these students are considered Courtesy Tested students, and their scores will not be included in the school's results. These scores may be submitted to the school principal as part of the required annual progress report for a student. See Section 8-12-18, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (Department of Education), testing requirements for home-schooled students.

HAWAI'I ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
TITLE 8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SUBTITLE 2 EDUCATION

Chapter 12 Compulsory Attendance Exceptions

Section 8-12-18: Testing and Progress Reports of Home-Schooled Children

- (a) Test scores shall be required for grades identified in the Statewide Testing Program, grades three, five, eight, and ten. A child is eligible to participate in the Statewide Testing Program at the local public school. The parent is responsible for securing necessary details from the principal of the local public school. The parent may elect to arrange for private testing at the parent's own expense. The tests used shall be comparable to the appropriate criterion- or norm-referenced tests used by the department in the grades concerned. The parent may request and the principal may approve other means of evaluation to meet the Statewide Testing Program requirements.
- (b) The parent shall submit to the principal an annual report of a child's progress. One of the following methods shall be used to demonstrate satisfactory progress:
 - (1) A score on a nationally-normed standardized achievement test which demonstrates grade level achievement appropriate to a child's age;
 - (2) Progress on a nationally-normed standardized achievement test that is equivalent to one grade level per calendar year, even if the overall achievement falls short of grade level standards;
 - (3) A written evaluation by a person certified to teach in the State of Hawai'i that a child demonstrates appropriate grade level achievement or significant annual advancement commensurate with a child's abilities; or
 - (4) A written evaluation by the parent which shall include:
 - (A) A description of the child's progress in each subject area included in the child's curriculum;
 - (B) Representative samples of the child's work; and
 - (C) Representative tests and assignments including grades for courses if grades are given.
- (c) When tests are administered under the Statewide Testing Program for grades three, five, eight, and ten, the parent may choose to have the child participate in the school's testing program and have the results serve as a means of assessing annual progress for that year.
- (d) The principal shall review the adequacy of a child's progress. If progress is not adequate, the principal shall meet with the parent to discuss the problems and help establish a plan for improvement. In this case, the principal may request and the parent shall share his or her record of the child's planned curriculum. When standardized test scores are used, adequate progress shall be considered to be score stanines in the upper two-thirds of the score stanines. Unless progress is inadequate for two consecutive semesters, based on a child's scores on a norm-referenced test for that grade level or the written evaluation by a person certified to teach in the State of Hawai'i, recommendations to enroll the child in a public or private school or to take legal action for educational neglect shall be prohibited. No recommendations shall be made for a child before the third grade.

[Eff. 11/7/91; am and comp 5/13/00] (Auth: HRS §§302A-1112, 302A-1132) (Imp: HRS §302A-1132)

PARTICIPATION LETTER FOR HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS REGARDING THE HAWAII STATE SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Dear Parent,

The Department of Education provides free testing for home-schooled students in grades 4 and 8, who may take the online Hawai'i State Science Assessment.

A home-schooled student's chronological age, adjusted grade-level placement by a public school or public charter school prior to home-schooled status, or course credits must indicate that his or her current grade-level placement is in grade 4 or 8 in order to participate in this assessment.

Our school will administer the assessment on the following dates during the 2014 – 2015 school year: _____ . If you want your child to participate in the Hawai'i State Science Assessment, depending on your child's current grade level, you will need to inform the school office and bring your child to the school on the days when the assessment will be administered. Please contact the school office at _____ to let us know if your child will participate. The purpose of the assessment is to provide you with information about your child's current achievement in science.

Here is a set of questions and answers about the Hawaii State Science Assessment.

When will the Hawaii State Science Assessment be administered?

Your child will take the assessment between mid-October and early June. Your child's school will inform you of its testing schedule.

Will my child see the same questions if he or she takes the Hawaii State Science Assessment more than once?

The online testing system records which questions your child has answered while he or she is taking the assessment. The system also adjusts to your child's knowledge and skills as he or she answers questions in order to provide the most accurate information about his or her performance. Every time your child answers a question, his or her response helps determine the next question he or she receives.

How much time does the Hawaii State Science Assessment take?

The assessment takes approximately two hours, but your child may be given additional time to complete the assessment. Your child may exit the assessment and return on another day to complete it. The online testing system keeps track of the questions that your child has answered and will present other questions when your child resumes the assessment.

What computer skills will my child need for the Hawaii State Science Assessment?

The assessment includes questions that will require your child to select one answer from a set of possible answers, draw and move objects, and type a few words or sentences. Your child can use the mouse or keyboard or both to take the online assessment, but your child is not required to be an expert computer user or typist.

Students may also choose to use some online tools to help them during the assessment.

Students can

- zoom in on both text and graphics,
- highlight important information,
- strike out incorrect answer choices, and
- mark questions for review.

Students are encouraged to practice answering the types of questions included in the assessment. A training test for each grade level is available at www.alohahsap.org.

When will families get the results of the Hawaii State Science Assessment?

Your family will receive a paper score report with your child's final scores at the beginning of the next school year during the month of August.

How can I help my child prepare for the Hawaii State Science Assessment?

You can best help your child prepare by providing the consistent support that will help your child do well during home-school instruction every day. Also make sure your child gets adequate sleep the night before and eats a nourishing breakfast on the morning when the assessment will be administered.

The online Hawai'i State Science Assessment provides standards-based scores. The standards-based scores indicate whether a child has demonstrated attainment of the science content standards that are required for Hawai'i's public school students.

Please call our school office at _____ if you have any questions regarding the online Hawai'i State Science Assessment or about our school's testing schedule.

Sincerely,

Principal