



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

OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

May 9, 2017

TO:

Complex Area Superintendents
Public Charter School Executive Director
Principals (All)
Public Charter School Directors (All)
District Education Specialists (All)

FROM:

Tammi Chun, Assistant Superintendent
Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance

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C. Suzanne Mulcahy, Assistant Superintendent
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support

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SUBJECT: Appropriate Testing Accommodations for Statewide Assessments

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) require that students with disabilities participate in statewide assessments.

34 CFR §311.160 Participation in assessments.

(a) *General.* A State must ensure that all children with disabilities are included in all general State and district-wide assessment programs, including assessments described under section 1111 of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 6311, with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments, if necessary, as indicated in their respective IEPs.

(b) *Accommodation guidelines.* (1) A State (or, in the case of a district-wide assessment, an LEA) must develop guidelines for the provision of appropriate accommodations.

(2) The State's (or, in the case of a district-wide assessment, the LEA's) guidelines must-

- (i) **Identify only those accommodations for each assessment that do not invalidate the score; and**
- (ii) **Instruct IEP Teams to select, for each assessment, only those accommodations that do not invalidate the score.**

The Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines provides information about state policy and the appropriate use of testing accommodations for the Hawaii Statewide Assessment Program. Additional resources, including guidelines, training modules, webinars, etc., related to accessibility and accommodations for statewide assessment may be found at alohahsap.org > Smarter Balanced > Resources > Teachers > Test Administration.

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Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Section 504 (504) Teams are instructed to select only those testing accommodations that do not invalidate the score. Test coordinators are to submit to the Assessment Section *Appendix R: Accommodations Verification Form* in the Test Administration Manual for each special education and 504 plan student who has an accommodation documented in the student's IEP/504 Plan. The Assessment Section will verify the requested testing accommodation(s) and notify the school test coordinator of any invalid accommodation(s). **A student who is administered a statewide assessment with an invalid testing accommodation will have the results invalidated and the student will be considered a non-participant for accountability purposes. IEP / 504 plans do not need to be revised prior to testing if a testing accommodation is invalidated.**

Prior to an IEP or 504 meeting that will address statewide assessments, review the Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines. Any accommodation that would invalidate the test should not be selected. This does not mean that those accommodations cannot be used during instruction.

If you have any questions related to testing accommodations, contact Brian Reiter or Susan Forbes in the Assessment Section at (808) 733-4100 or via email at hsa/sas/hidoe@notes.k12.hi.us. If you have questions related to a student's IEP/504 Plan, contact Karen Sato in the Special Education Section at (808) 305-9806 or via email at Karen_Sato@notes.k12.hi.us.

TC/CSM:cy

c: Assistant Superintendents
State Public Charter School Commission