



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

July 29, 2019

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

FROM: Rodney Luke   
Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Science Assessments Beginning in School Year 2019-2020**

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were adopted by the Board of Education in February 2016 and are to be fully implemented in schools by the 2019-20 school year. As a result, beginning this school year the HSA Science Assessments, Biology End-of-Course Exam and HSA-Alt Science assessments will be based upon the NGSS and no longer aligned with the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III for Science. These tests will be referred to as HSA Science (NGSS), Biology EOC Exam (NGSS), and HSA-Alt Science (NGSS) respectively.

The NGSS standards were developed by states and guided by the National Research Council, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Achieve. The standards are based upon three dimensional learning which calls upon students to apply the core ideas of science, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts to explore real world phenomena. The standards reflect current research and best practices in science teaching and learning to prepare students to think critically, analyze information and solve complex problems. The NGSS and the associated evidence statements can be found at [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org).

The new science assessments are designed to measure students' attainment of the performance expectations (PEs) laid out in the NGSS and will be quite different from the past assessments. The NGSS assessments at each grade include 6 item clusters and 12 stand-alone items. Item clusters include a stimulus and a series of questions that generally take students about 6 to 12 minutes to complete. Stand-alone items are shorter and generally take students 2 to 3 minutes to complete. Samples of these items can be found at: <https://hsa.alohahsap.org/users/ngss-resources.stml>.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

The elementary school assessment will be administered in **Grade 5** and cover the NGSS PEs for grades 3 through 5. Students are required to take this test once but will have an optional second opportunity.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

The middle school assessment will be administered in **Grade 8** and cover the NGSS PEs for grades 6 through 8. Students are required to take this test once but will have an optional second opportunity.

### HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

The Biology EOC Exam will cover the NGSS High School Life Science PEs as well as three related Earth Space Science PEs: HS-ESS 2-6, ESS 2-7, and ESS 3-3. Students will have 1 opportunity to take the Biology EOC during the last four weeks of the course through which they are meeting the biology graduation requirement.

#### Testing Windows for HSA-Science (NGSS) and Biology EOC Exam (NGSS)

Assessment	Grades	Number of Opportunities*	Testing Window	
			Open	Close
HSA-Science (NGSS) **	5 and 8	2	01/08/20*	05/28/20
	5 and 8 multi-track schools	2	01/08/20*	06/19/20*
Biology EOC Exam (NGSS) **	Fall (block schedule schools only)		11/25/19	12/20/19
	Spring		04/27/20	05/28/20
	Multi-track Schools		06/01/20	06/19/20*
	Summer		06/15/20*	07/17/20*

\* Subject to Change

\*\* These assessments will be based solely on the PEs in the NGSS

### OPERATIONAL FIELD TESTS IN 2019-2020

The SY2019-20 administration of the HSA-Science (NGSS) and Biology EOC Exam (NGSS) assessments will be operational field tests. This means that achievement standard setting (determining performance levels and establishing cut scores) will take place during summer 2020 so scores will not be immediately available. It is anticipated that student scores, Family Reports, and similar information will be available in August 2020.

Additional information including item specifications, test design and blueprints, proposed reporting categories, guides for parents, and parent letters will become available at <https://hsa.alohahsap.org/> and <https://eoc.alohahsap.org/> during the school year. These will be announced in the Assessment News, <https://smarterbalanced.alohahsap.org/resources/hawaii-doe-assessment-news/> as they are posted on the website.

If you have any questions, contact Paul Dumas, Test Development Specialist, Assessment Section, at (808) 307-3636 or at [paul.dumas@k12.hi.us](mailto:paul.dumas@k12.hi.us).

RL:pd

c: Assessment and Accountability Branch