



The Hawaii State Assessment Is Moving Online!

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, the reading, mathematics, and science tests will be given online instead of using paper and pencil. Students will take each of the tests one to three times between mid-October 2010 and mid-May 2011.



Benefits of Online Testing

- ✓ *Immediate results*
- ✓ *Students can take tests up to three times and keep the highest score*
- ✓ *Testing takes less time*

Why are the Hawaii State Assessments moving online?

- Online tests provide teachers and students immediate feedback about student performance. That means teachers can use the information to adjust instruction to meet students' needs.
- Online testing will provide more flexibility for schools to schedule tests over more than one day if necessary so students can demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

Are the new online tests the same as the old paper and pencil tests?

- Unlike the paper and pencil tests, the online tests will be adaptive. This means that the online tests will adjust to each student's knowledge and skills and provide a more accurate measure of a student's performance. Every time a student answers a question, the response helps determine the next question that a student must answer. The online test also records which questions students have already answered and gives them different questions if they take the test a second or third time.
- Students will not see the same test questions more than once and they never see the next question until they answer the question they are on. Students may start a test, complete a portion of it, then go back and finish it on another day. This allows students to take as much time as they need to complete a test. All of the test questions are at a student's grade level.





What keyboarding skills will students need to take the online tests?

- Students are not required to demonstrate mastery of keyboarding skills to participate in the online tests. They will click their answers for multiple-choice questions and may use their index fingers to type short answers for some constructed response questions. Other constructed response questions will involve drawing and moving objects on the computer screen.
- A tutorial will be available for families to try out the online testing system on the Hawaii State Assessment website at <http://www.alohahsa.org> in January 2010.

What online tools can students use while they are answering test questions?

- Zooming for both text and graphics
- Highlighting for reading passages
- Strikeout for multiple-choice answer options
- Marking questions for review

How can my student prepare for the online tests?

A tryout of the online system is scheduled from February 16 – May 26, 2010 in reading and mathematics for students in grades 3-8 and 10. Students in grades 4, 8, 10, and high school students taking a Biology course will also try out the online science test. This will give students and schools the chance to practice with the online system. You should encourage your child to do his/her best during the tryout, but students will not receive scores for these tests. A tutorial will be available for families to try out the online testing system on the AlohaHSA website beginning in January 2010.

All public and public charter schools will select the days when students will take the online tryout from February 16 – May 26, 2010.

Spring 2010 Hawaii State Assessment Paper and Pencil Administration

Full-scale online testing does not begin until school year 2010-2011. Your students will take a paper-and-pencil Hawaii State Assessment between March 29 – April 23, 2010. Students in grades 3-8 and 10 will take reading and mathematics tests and students in grades 4, 6, and 10 will take a science test. Students will receive scores for these tests during August 2010.

For more information
Visit <http://www.alohahsa.org> or talk to your child's teacher or principal.

