



## **Hawaii State Assessment Program (HSAP)**

### **Understanding the Hawaii State Assessment Program (HSAP)**

The Hawaii State Assessments (HSAs) are used to monitor student progress at achieving the standards that are to be learned in the core subjects of reading, mathematics and science. These assessments are required by state and federal law to be administered throughout the course of a students' education to serve a yardstick for measuring student and school progress.

The tests are criterion-referenced which means that they are based on the criteria laid out in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards. The alignment between curriculum and assessment allows for the whole educational system to be monitored. Within the results a student receives from the assessments, students, families and educators will be able to see which content areas, as laid out in the curriculum, require additional focus.

Starting in grade 3, students will take the Hawaii State Assessments (HSAs) in Reading and Mathematics. They will take these assessments yearly through grade 8, then again in grade 10. Students will also take the Hawaii State Assessment (HSA) in Science in grades 4, 8 and 10.

In high school, students will also take an End-of-Course Examination in Algebra II, also referred to as the ADP (American Diploma Project) Algebra II End-of-Course Exam. This final exam is based on an assessment developed and used by 35 states that ensures students are developing competencies that will prepare them for college and career. Starting in 2012-2013 students will also take an ADP Biology I End-of-Course Examination.

One assessment is no longer being used. The TerraNova assessments for students in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading and mathematics stopped being administered in 2011.

Instead, starting in the 2010-2011 school year teachers began to administer interim assessments. These replace the required quarterly assessments teachers had to give. These assessments are used to monitor student progress during the year and help teachers recognize areas where instruction needs to be focused.

### **Format of the Hawaii State Assessment Program (HSAP)**

Students that take the Hawaii State Assessments (HSAs) in Reading and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and 10 are given questions in a multiple-choice and constructed-response format. The tests are administered online unless a student requires a paper-and-pencil version due to an accommodation. The testing time is approximately 90 minutes with a break at the midpoint, however all students are given as much time as they require to finish the assessment.

The ADP Algebra II End-of-Course Examination asks questions in multiple-choice, short answer and extended response formats. This test is administered online as well unless a student requires a paper-and-pencil version. While the test administration time is 90 minutes, broken down into two sections students

have as much time as they need to complete the test. On this examination, students will be allowed to use a calculator on one section and not allowed the calculator on the other.

Students are allowed to take the Hawaii State Assessments (HSAs) up to three times. All students are required to take the assessment at least one time, but if students want to attempt to raise their proficiency level score they will be allowed to do so after a 14-day waiting period.

### **Taking the Hawaii State Assessment Program (HSAP)**

The assessments are aligned to the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards which organize the subjects of mathematics, science and reading in the following manner:

Reading and Language Arts: reading conventions, vocabulary and literacy skills, comprehension, response and analysis of literature, writing conventions and skills, use of rhetorical devices in writing, oral conventions and skills, and oral use of rhetoric.

Mathematics: number sense, measurement, geometry and spatial sense, patterns, functions and algebra, and data analysis, statistics and probability.

Science: scientific investigation, nature of science and its processes, life and environmental science, and physical, earth and space science.

The ADP Algebra II End-of-Course Examination is laid out to cover the following topics: operations on numbers and expressions, equations and inequalities, polynomial and rational functions, exponential functions, and function operations and inverses.

Each of these areas has their sub-skills that teachers work to teach daily. The sub-skills are also laid out in the curriculum, however the exact lessons and materials for teaching this material is determined by teachers and schools.

When students receive their scores, they are represented as a number on a scale and as a proficiency level. There are four proficiency levels: Exceeds Proficiency, Meets Proficiency, Approaches Proficiency, and Well Below Proficiency.

The scale score is a composite of the number correct and the level of difficulty of those questions. The score reports will show students and families the areas of strength and areas where a student needs to gain more skills to be at a proficient level in the subject.

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