### FAQs

**How are assessments used? Two ways...**

**INSTRUCTION:** To measure how students are progressing toward college and career readiness in core subjects:

- English Language Arts/Literacy (Smarter Balanced, or SBA)
- Mathematics (SBA)
- Science (Hawaii State Assessment, or HSA)

Annual testing provides not only a regular means to see if students are meeting higher expectations at a single point in time, but also measures student growth over time.

Results from assessments help to focus instruction on key skills that students need to master in order to become college and career ready. Schools need tests to help determine if students (individually and in groups) have learned what was expected of them, and identify areas of difficulty to make targeted adjustments in instruction.

Hawaii also provides assessments for:

- Kaipunui (immersion) school students (Hawaiian language assessment of state standards in language arts and mathematics, grades 3 and 4, and science grade 5)
- students with cognitive disabilities (alternative assessments)
- special education students (accommodations on SBA, HSA)
- English Learners (WIDA language proficiency assessments)

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** A reliable and objective assessment of student achievement helps to address the desire by elected officials, community members and parents to know whether students are achieving in their schools. It also allows for meaningful comparisons across schools, provides a yardstick for holding schools accountable for improved academic achievement, and informs educational policy, school improvement and instructional practice.

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### Required statewide assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT AREA</th>
<th>GRADES</th>
<th>TESTING TIME</th>
<th>WHY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SBA Smarter Balanced Assessments</td>
<td>English Language Arts/Literacy Mathematics</td>
<td>3-8 and 11</td>
<td>Untimed. Average time to complete: 5.5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSA-Science Hawaii State Assessments in Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>5 and 8</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biology I (End of Course Exam)</td>
<td>High school</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>English, Mathematics, Reading, Writing</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAEP National Assessment of Educational Progress</td>
<td>Reading Mathematics</td>
<td>4 and 8 Only a sample of students take the exam.</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Helpful Links

- Detailed information on assessments: [bit.ly/HIDOE-testing](bit.ly/HIDOE-testing)