



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 30, 2020

ATTENTION REQUESTED

TO: Complex Area Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "CK", written over the printed name of the Superintendent.

SUBJECT: **Learning Assessments for Opening School Year 2020-2021 and COVID-19 Recovery**

During the first two weeks of SY 2020-2021, schools will assess all students from kindergarten through grade 12 to determine the students' readiness to meet the curricular standards of their current grade level. Schools will follow the Hawaii Multi-Tiered System of Support (HMTSS) and their formative assessment cycle.

Besides being the first academic step for opening the school year and addressing the COVID-19 long term closure and usual summer slide, the initial screening, and formative assessment grades will be used for reporting our understanding to the public, as well as the progress monitoring and summative grades throughout the school year.

Schools will utilize the HMTSS to screen students to identify targeted needs. Schools will monitor student progress to inform instructional design for intervention and differentiation. (Please refer to the Hawaii Department of Education's link to the HMTSS guide for best practices and considerations for HMTSS/RTI at [Hawaii Multi-Tiered System of Support](#).)

The English Language Arts and Mathematics universal screening will:

- begin on August 4, 2020 (Fall);
- be aligned to the Hawaii Common Core; and
- with screening also scheduled for mid-year (Winter) and year-end (Spring), to provide a measure of growth.

The Multiple Measures Student Screening (MMSS) Report in the Longitudinal Data System (LDS) is a powerful way for teachers to use the universal screener to identify their students' strengths and needs at the beginning of and periodically throughout the school year. The screener assessment scores from the previous year coupled with the measures at the beginning and throughout the school year 2020-2021 will help teachers anticipate the knowledge and skills of individual students in their classrooms. The information also helps teachers determine the range of ability within classes to inform how they design

and deliver their curriculum. Teachers may also find the MMSS information valuable throughout the year to help monitor student progress. The Data Governance and Analysis Branch of the Office of Strategy, Innovation, and Performance manages and conducts training on the use of the Department's longitudinal education data to strengthen the use of data for decision making.

For other content areas or in the absence of a universal screener, schools will administer school-developed assessments to assess student needs. All grade-levels and course departments will begin their formative assessment cycle during the first two weeks of school.

- The school-developed pre-assessments will be aligned to the Hawaii Core Standards.
- The pre-assessments will be used as an initial diagnostic to establish baseline instructional goals and personalization.
- Grade-levels and departments will administer 5-10 formative assessments for each summative assessment to be used to inform quarterly grade determination.

Questions may be directed to Mr. Garret Yoshimura, Administrator, Standards Support Team, at 305-9703 or garret.yoshimura@k12.hi.us.

CMK:gy

Attachment: 1) [MMSS flyer](#)

c: Deputy Superintendent
Assistant Superintendents
Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design