

PEAKS Practice Tests

AKA: Online Tools Training (OTT)



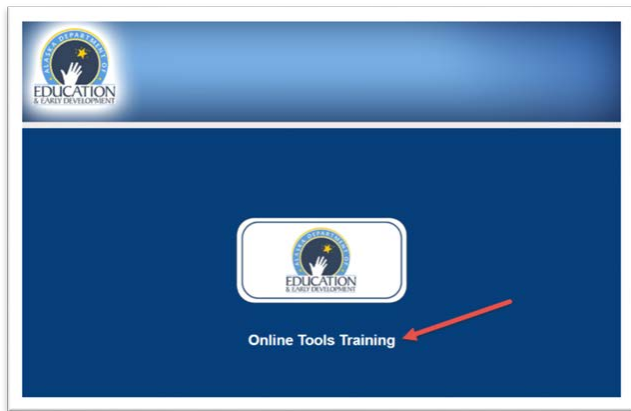
Quick Guide

The Online Tools Training (OTT), or practice tests, for the PEAKS computer-based assessment is designed to provide students a hands-on opportunity to experience the test environment. Students can navigate through a “test”, practice using test-taking tools and try out different technology-enhanced items.

School districts should provide students the opportunity to use the OTT. Students should be familiar with navigating the test environment prior to testing so they can focus on the content of the test and confidently demonstrate their knowledge of the Alaska standards.

OTT is accessible to students, educators, parents and the community. Parents are encouraged to use the OTT and see what kinds of item types their student will be answering and the variety of online tools available to support testing. Test questions are not scored, and answers are not saved.

1. **Google CHROME** is the **ONLY** browser that is available for PEAKS OTT (practice tests). ASD devices have Chrome installed. Home devices should visit Google for assistance with Chrome.
2. Copy and paste the following link into Google Chrome, ***<https://wbte.drcedirect.com/AK/portals/ak>***
3. Select Online Tools Training.



ALSO! PEAKS Student Tutorials

The ***PEAKS Student Tutorials*** are web-based videos that introduce the computer-based testing system. The tutorials use age-appropriate sample test items, animation, audio and closed captioning to describe the testing tools and navigation through the test engine. The tutorials are available to anyone with the link and viewable on most browsers.

1. Copy and paste the following link into a web browser, <http://tinyurl.com/z4mndrc>
2. Select the content area of your choice.

A complete list of online (embedded within the test) universal tools and accommodations is found on the second page of this document.

For more information about the PEAKS assessment:

State of Alaska's PEAKS webpage: ***<https://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessments/peaks.html>***

The ASD PEAKS webpage: ***<http://www.asdk12.org/peaks/>***

The ASD staff Support Central PEAKS website (requires ASD login credentials: ***<https://share.asdk12.org/support/default.aspx>***)

Online Tools Training – Guidance for Teachers

The purpose of the Online Tools Training (OTT) is to familiarize students with Alaska’s computer-based test engine, INSIGHT, and to give them an opportunity to practice the types of questions that will be on the PEAKS and Alaska Science assessments.

The OTT is not meant to illustrate the rigor and complexity of the questions students will encounter on the test this spring. The OTT covers only a small amount of the content in the Alaska English Language Arts and Math Standards and should not be used to inform instruction. An answer key for each item is provided within the Summary Table for each grade and content area. The Summary Tables are found in this guide and on the [Student Preparation webpage \(https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks/StudentPreparation\)](https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks/StudentPreparation). Students can login and practice an unlimited number of times.

Students need multiple opportunities to practice using the OTT so that they are familiar with using the tools and functions that are part of the PEAKS and Alaska Science assessments. Students should practice on the same types of devices (e.g., computers, tablets) that they will use during the spring assessments. Students should also take the assessment on the type of device that they are most familiar with using in the classroom.

Here are some examples of the types of features in the OTT that teachers should review with students:

- Read the Practice Hint for each question and review how to answer. These practice hints will not be visible on the spring assessments.
- Show how to navigate using the drop down list of questions at the top of the page and the navigation buttons.
- Model when and why to use the flag feature (e.g., if students find themselves stuck on a problem, they can flag it and then go back to it later).
- Model the Cross-Off feature to show how it can be used to eliminate answer options for multiple-choice questions.
- With the English Language Arts passages:
 - Show students how to click to go to the next page in the passage; explain to students how they can look back at the passage on the left side of the screen when answering the questions on the right side of the screen.
 - Practice moving the line guide on the screen as the student reads the passage.
 - Practice using the highlighter to highlight important text.
 - Practice responding to a Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) writing prompt.
- In the math test:
 - Show students how to access the calculators (available only on the grades 6-9 OTT and summative test).
 - Practice solving math problems on scratch paper and then entering the answers on the screen.
 - Practice entering functions (up to six can be entered) on the graphing tool and moving the pointer to show different X values.
 - Practice plotting different types of lines on a coordinate graph.
- Model how to use the final review page to make sure all items have been completed and how students can return to a specific item by clicking on the number.

The following list shows the types of technology skills students will need to use for the PEAKS and Alaska Science assessments.

Tools

- Help (?)
- Pointer
- Highlighter
- Eraser
- Cross-Off (to eliminate answer choices)
- Magnifier
- Sticky Note
- Calculator
- Flag
- Line Guide
- Options (Color Choices, Contrasting Color, Masking)
- Enlarge

Students must be able to read and use the buttons for navigation.

- Question Drop-down List
- Back
- Next
- Pause
- Resume
- Flag
- Review/End Test
- Submit

The following list shows types of technology skills students will need to use for the PEAKS and Alaska Science assessments by content area.

English Language Arts

Mouse or touch-screen skills:

- Click to highlight a word or sentence
- Click to outline a word or sentence that is highlighted.
- Drag and drop to sort, order, or label.
- Select an item from a drop down menu.
- Click to select an answer.

Keyboarding skills:

- Type to construct short responses and a Text-Dependent Analysis.

Science

Mouse or touch-screen skills:

- Click to select an answer.

Keyboarding skills:

- Type single word responses
- Type to construct short responses or constructed responses

Math

Mouse or touch-screen skills:

- Drag and drop a word, number, or item to sort, order, label, or match.
- Click to highlight a word, number, or item.
- Select an item from a drop down menu.
- Click to select an answer.
- Click to create a plot point; select between dashed and solid lines.
- Click and drag a line.

Keyboarding skills:

Type numbers (and delete to change an answer).

For more information on the types of items that could appear on the PEAKS assessment, visit <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessments/peaks.html>.