

Subject: Assignments for 2009–2010 Field Testing and Related Assessment Activities

October 1, 2009

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

Please DO NOT reply to this e-mail.

On September 2, 2009, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) notified school districts of field testing and associated assessment activities for the 2009–2010 school year. This correspondence may be found at http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/letters/2010/090209_fieldtest_notification.pdf.

Several significant changes in the state assessment program will be implemented in the 2011–2012 school year, including replacing the current Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) with new grade/subject-specific assessments at grades 3–8 and replacing the high school TAKS tests with 12 end-of-course (EOC) assessments. Transitioning to these new assessments will make it necessary to conduct more stand-alone field testing than has occurred in recent years since the items for these new assessments cannot be embedded into the current TAKS assessments. In addition, standards must be set on all of the new assessments. Given the high-stakes nature of the EOC assessments, program standards are scheduled to be set on all 12 of the assessments before the first mandatory administrations for graduation purposes in the 2011–2012 school year.

TEA recognizes the challenges districts and campuses face with regard to time and resources when they are asked to participate in stand-alone field tests and studies. However, the increased testing activities that will be necessary in 2010 and 2011 will provide several major benefits for students and school districts.

- Standards for all 12 EOC assessments will be set prior to the first mandatory administrations in 2011–2012 for graduation purposes, enabling districts to meet the legislative requirement to include the results of the EOC assessments as 15% of students' grades by the end of the school year.
- The standards will be externally validated by means of several studies, which is another requirement of recent legislation that will ensure the rigor and alignment of the new assessments.
- TEA will be able to develop and implement growth measures for the EOC assessments prior to their being used for state and federal accountability.

The increase in field testing for implementing these new assessments is temporary. The agency plans to use embedded field testing in all EOC assessments and expects to eliminate the need for stand-alone field testing for the new grades 3–8 assessments after spring 2011.

Campus assignments for the 2010 field test(s) and other related assessment activities can be found on Pearson's Schoolhouse website at <https://secure.ncsschoolhouse.com/schoolhouse/Login>. Once logged in with your secure user ID and password, you will need to access the **REPORTS** tab and select "Field-Test Notification Letters" from the pull-down list to view the testing/activity assignments for your district. If you have not been selected to participate in a TAKS or EOC assessment activity, you will not see any campus assignments, but you will see which TELPAS reading interface you have been assigned.

The selection criteria used in the sampling process are as follows.

- For each selected EOC assessment, campuses will administer the test in only one mode (either paper or online).
- For online EOC assessments, the maximum number of students required to test for each subject is 300 per campus.
- For paper EOC assessments, all students enrolled in the course at a campus will participate.
- For TAKS assessments, all students enrolled in the grade at a campus will participate.
- Campuses were not assigned to more than two online assessments.
- Campuses were not selected to administer more than a total of four assessments.
- All campuses within a district administering TELPAS reading will use the same interface.

The following types of campuses were excluded from the selection process for 2010:

- Campuses that participated in TAKS and/or EOC stand-alone field tests for the last four consecutive years
- Campuses identified as JJAEP, DAEP, or TYC
- Campuses rated as *Academically Unacceptable* for three or more years
- Campuses identified for school improvement as Stage Five: Restructuring/Alternative Governance as a result of not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress for multiple years

Please note that because of the small number of students who participate in TAKS–M, **all students** in the state who currently meet the TAKS–M eligibility requirements are required to participate in the fall 2009 TAKS–M field test.

The TAKS–M field test will take place from September 28, 2009, through October 16, 2009, for all subjects; participants are students enrolled in grades 4–12. Note that the TAKS–M field test assesses content associated with the previous grade. For example, students enrolled in grade 4 at the time of the field test are to be given a TAKS–M grade 4 test booklet containing grade 3 content.

Refer to the 2009–2010 student assessment testing calendar at http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/calendar/2009_2010_calendar.pdf for testing dates. If you have questions about the selection process or need additional information about the 2009–2010 assessment activities, please contact the Student

Assessment Division. Call Pearson's Austin Operations Center at 800-252-9186 with questions concerning access to your assignments.

Assessment Contact Information

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cc: ESC and District Testing Coordinators