

March 23, 2010

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Student Assessment Program Reporting Updates for 2010

This letter provides districts with information about changes to the reporting process in the Texas assessment program for spring 2010.

**Vertical Scale for Grades 3–8 Reading and Mathematics for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)**

Texas Education Code, Section 39.036, required the development of a vertical scale for assessing student performance in reading and mathematics in grades 3–8. For 2009 both the existing horizontal scale score and the new vertical scale score were provided on the Confidential Student Report (CSR) and the data files provided to school districts. Beginning in 2010, however, the vertical scale will be the only scale provided for these subjects/grades. In response to the vertical scale requirement, standards review panels of educators were convened to recommend adjustments to the academic achievement standards to produce an appropriate increase in expectations for student performance from grade to grade without lowering achievement expectations. The review panels recommended increases in performance standards for the following grades and subjects, and these standards were approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) on January 23, 2009, for implementation beginning in spring 2010.

- Grade 3 Spanish mathematics at the Met Standard level
- Grade 4 Spanish mathematics at the Met Standard and Commended Performance levels
- Grade 5 English mathematics at the Commended Performance level
- Grade 6 reading at the Met Standard and Commended Performance levels
- Grade 6 mathematics at the Commended Performance level
- Grade 8 reading at the Met Standard and Commended Performance levels
- Grade 8 mathematics at the Commended Performance level

The 2010 vertical scale performance standards for TAKS and TAKS (Accommodated) grades 3 – 8 reading and mathematics are listed below (the vertical scale standards that were increased are highlighted).

Grade	Reading		Mathematics	
	Met Standard	Commended Performance	Met Standard	Commended Performance
<b>English-version Tests</b>				
3	483	659	500	640
4	554	725	554	698
5	620	763	603	738
6	644	797	637	783
7	670	829	670	823
8	700	850	700	850
<b>Spanish-version Tests</b>				
3	503	657	503	649
4	555	694	555	692
5	623	744	627	755

Note that the performance standards for TAKS and TAKS (Accommodated) writing (grades 4 and 7), science (grades 5, 8, 10, and exit level), social studies (grades 8, 10, and exit level), reading and mathematics at grade 9, and English language arts and mathematics at grade 10 and exit level continue to be a scale score of 2100 for Met Standard and 2400 for Commended Performance.

More information about the TAKS vertical scale score and changes to the academic achievement standards can be found at the Student Assessment Division website at [http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3534&menu\\_id=793](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3534&menu_id=793).

### **Texas Projection Measure (TPM)**

The TPM for TAKS indicates whether students are projected to meet the standard in grades 5, 8, and 11 after receiving grade-level instruction. For 2010 the following changes will be made to the calculation of the TPM.

- Because TAKS grade 8 science has been operational long enough to develop projection equations, the TPM will be reported for the first time for grade 8 science.
- The TPM will include the prior-year score (when possible) for grades 4–10 reading/ELA and mathematics. The prior-year data apply only to the subject for which the TPM is being calculated. For example, a grade 5 mathematics TPM would use scores from the current year mathematics, previous year mathematics, current year reading, and the campus mean for grade 5 mathematics. If the appropriate data are not available for the previous year but the current year data are present, then the alternate formula using one year of data will be used. The formula used (one-year vs. two-year) will be noted on the data file.
- A projection to TAKS Commended Performance will be provided for all subjects for which TPM is calculated. This information will be included on both the CSR and on the individual student data files provided to school districts.
- The TPM will be reported when a student takes TAKS in English in some subjects and in Spanish in others. TPM will be reported for reading and mathematics if a student takes Spanish reading and English mathematics. It will be reported for grade 4 writing if a student takes English mathematics and Spanish reading and writing. For other Spanish/English test combinations, a TPM will not be reported because insufficient data are available to generate valid and reliable projection equations. For grade 5 science, TPM will be reported only if a student takes all tests in the same language. Calculations for students who do not take all tests in the same language will use only current-year data. TPM will continue to be reported for students who take all subjects in Spanish. Regardless of the language of testing, TPM will project to performance in English at the projection grade.
- TPM will be calculated for students who take TAKS–Modified (TAKS–M). TAKS–M was administered for the first time in 2008; therefore, it has not been administered long enough to have a TPM calculated for all grades and subjects. The TPM will indicate whether students taking TAKS–M reading and mathematics in grades 4, 7, and 10, as well as science in grade 10, are projected to meet the standard and/or achieve commended performance in grades 5, 8,

and 11. In order to receive a TAKS–M TPM, the student must have taken all applicable subjects within the TAKS–M program. Students taking a combination of TAKS (including TAKS (Accommodated)) and TAKS–M assessments will not receive a TPM calculation because there are insufficient data available to generate stable projection equations for students testing across assessment programs within a school year. District means for TAKS–M will be used in calculations when the district has 30 or more students in the district/grade/subject. If this number is not met, then the state mean for students who take TAKS–M will be used.

- Confidential Student Reports with TPM information (similar to those provided in fall 2009) will be provided at the same time as other assessment results. These will be provided for both TAKS and TAKS–M and will be provided online only via the secure SchoolHouse website. In addition, a report summarizing the percent of students meeting the standard, percent of students meeting TPM, and percent of students meeting the standard or meeting TPM will also be provided after each applicable test administration. The summary reports will be provided in paper format (and also PDF format if ordered as an option by the district).

More information on the Texas Projection Measure is available at [http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3534&menu\\_id=793](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3534&menu_id=793).

### **TAKS–Alternate (TAKS–Alt) Growth Measure**

TEA will report growth for students assessed with TAKS–Alt. The TAKS–Alt Growth Measure consists of two parts: “stage change” and “on track.” Stage change refers to the change in a student’s score from the prior year to the current year. This measure will be used for grades 4–11 reading/ELA and mathematics and grade 11 social studies and science.

The on-track measure indicates whether the student is “on track” to meet the standard in the next high stakes grade (5, 8, and 11) based on the stage change he or she made from the prior year to the current year. The on-track measure will be reported for grades 4–10 in reading/ELA and mathematics in 2010. Both measures—stage change and on track—will be reported on the student’s CSR.

### **End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Reporting**

Reports for operational EOC assessments (Algebra I, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, world geography, and U.S. history) will be provided in the same formats as were provided in 2009; no results will be provided for field tests (English I and Algebra II). CSRs and the confidential list of students’ results will be accessible in PDF format via Pearson’s Online Testing System at <http://etest.pearson.com/Customers/Texas/eoct/txeoct/reporting.htm>. Reports for students testing online will be available within 24 hours from the close of testing day; for paper tests, reports will be available within 10 days of receipt of materials from the district.

Student-level data files and summary reports will be available to superintendents by June 26, 2010. A summary report indicating the number of students meeting the standard and number of students achieving commended performance will be provided for Algebra I (the only subject for which standards have been set). In addition, the following summary reports will be provided for geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, world geography, and U.S. history:

- Raw Score Distribution Summary
- Raw Score Distribution by Objective Summary
- Raw Score Frequency Distribution—All Students

All summary reports will provide information by each demographic and program group (e.g., ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, special education, etc.). The summary reports and data files will be provided on the secure SchoolHouse Website. In addition, statewide summary reports for each of the operational EOC assessments are available on the Student Assessment Division website at [http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3631&menu\\_id=793#eoc](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3631&menu_id=793#eoc).

### **Item Analysis/Student Expectation Data**

For the spring 2010 administration of TAKS, results received by districts after each primary TAKS administration will indicate, by individual student, item-level performance for each item on a given TAKS test. Performance will be indicated by yes (correct) or no (incorrect) on the data file provided to districts. A separate text file will be posted at the same time showing the objective and student expectation associated with each item on the test. The ability to link these two sets of data will permit school districts to analyze this information immediately by individual student as well as aggregate by class, grade, campus, district, etc.

In summer 2010, campus and district summary reports by objective and student expectation will also be provided on the SchoolHouse website at no cost to school districts. In 2011, school districts will be able to access this type of information earlier through the data portal (required under House Bill 3, 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature) in a more streamlined manner that will not require linking to a separate text file.

If you have questions about any of the updates outlined above, contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

#### Assessment Contact Information

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