April 12, 2010

TO THE ESC AND DISTRICT TESTING COORDINATOR ADDRESSED :

SUBJECT: Important Reminders and Updates for Upcoming 2010 April and May Administrations

Please DO NOT reply to this e-mail.

This letter provides districts with important reminders and updates for upcoming testing in April and May. Please forward the information to appropriate testing personnel.

1. For the grade 9 TAKS (Accommodated) mathematics test, test administrators **must** inform students that they will not use all the bubbles in the mathematics section of the answer document. If a test session includes only TAKS (Accommodated) students, the test administrator may communicate this information to the entire group. If a test session includes both TAKS and TAKS (Accommodated) students, the test administrator must go to each TAKS (Accommodated) student separately and communicate the following information:

   SAY Remember, you will stop when you come to the last question on the mathematics test. This means that you will not use the last column of bubbles in the mathematics section of your answer document.

   When testing is completed, test administrators must remember to complete the "TEST TAKEN INFO" field on the answer document to indicate whether the student took TAKS or TAKS (Accommodated).

2. The end-of-course (EOC) English I field test is to be administered over two days—writing on day one and reading on day two. Ideally the field test should be administered over two consecutive days. However, if logistical issues preclude using this administration schedule, then districts should administer the two sections as close together as possible during the window.

3. For campuses that have been selected to administer mandatory online EOC assessments, the maximum number of students required to test for each subject is 300 per campus. If a campus has fewer than 300 students enrolled in the course, then all students must test online. If a campus has more than 300 students enrolled in the course, then 300 students should be selected to test.

4. Mathematics and reading tests are in one scorable test booklet this year at grade 3. Therefore, it is particularly important for campus staff to exercise diligence in identifying grade 3 students who are scheduled to receive the reading test with dyslexia bundled accommodations. Campus coordinators and test administrators must ensure that Form 1 test booklets are issued to these students on the day of the mathematics test.

If you have questions about any of this information, please contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Assessment Contact Information
Texas Education Agency
Department of Assessment, Accountability, and Data Quality, Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner
Division of Student Assessment, Gloria Zyskowski, Deputy Associate Commissioner
(512) 463-9536
studenta@tea.state.tx.us