June 23, 2010

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: ***Approved Substitute Assessments for the Student Success Initiative***

Section 28.0211(b) of the Texas Education Code (TEC) specifies: "A school district may administer an alternate assessment instrument to a student who has failed an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a) on the previous two opportunities." As specified in 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Assessment, Subchapter BB, Commissioner's Rules Concerning the Student Success Initiative, §101.2011, the commissioner provides annually to school districts and charter schools a list of state-approved group-administered achievement tests certified by test publishers as meeting the requirements of TEC, §28.0211. The district may select only one test for each applicable grade and subject to be used under this section, and the substitute assessment must be administered during the period established in the testing calendar to coincide with the date of the third administration of the statewide assessment. Test publishers are required to provide results of the substitute assessments to school districts within ten working days following receipt of the test materials from the school district. School districts and charter schools are required to follow the same procedures for ensuring test security and confidentiality that are required during the regular administrations of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests.

Currently four assessment instruments have been approved for the SSI substitute assessment option:

1. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), Form B, Grade 5 English Reading Test, produced by the Riverside Publishing Company.
2. ITBS, Form B, Grade 5 English Mathematics Test, produced by the Riverside Publishing Company.
3. ITBS, Form B, Grade 8 English Reading Test, produced by the Riverside Publishing Company.
4. ITBS, Form B, Grade 8 English Mathematics Test, produced by the Riverside Publishing Company.

The established cut scores to meet the standard and commended performance on the ITBS are provided in the following table.

Conversion of *ITBS* Scaled Scores to TAKS Achievement Levels

TAKS		**Grade 5**	**Grade 8**
	Achievement Levels	***ITBS* Score Equivalents**	***ITBS* Score Equivalents**
Reading	***Met the Standard***	**191 -228**	**200 -261**
	Commended Performance	**229 -290**	**262 -341**
Mathematics	***Met the Standard***	**197-229**	**226-289**
	Commended Performance	**230-284**	**290-340**

If you require additional information, please call the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Assessment Contact Information
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