

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Delayed 2008 AYP/SIP Notification

Delayed AYP Notification

1. When will local education agencies (LEAs) receive notification of their district and campus 2008 AYP results?

The following proposed 2008 AYP schedule for release of the Preliminary 2008 AYP results has been submitted to the US Department of Education (USDE) for approval.

TAKS-Modified census test administrations for AYP grades and subjects	Spring, 2008
Texas school districts retain all SIP evaluations from the prior year (based on 2007 AYP results) and continue implementation of SIP requirements	August, 2008
TAKS-Modified standard setting process for AYP grades and subjects completed	Mid-August, 2008
Release of Preliminary 2008 AYP Results to all Texas Schools and Districts	October 8, 2008
Parental Notification by all Texas Districts of School Improvement Requirements	No later than October 20, 2008

The final approved schedule for 2008 AYP results will be published in the 2008 AYP Guide, available in June. If approved, school districts will receive notification of their district and campus Preliminary 2008 AYP results on October 8, 2008.

2. When will LEAs and campuses be notified of their SIP Stage Identification for the 2008-09 school year?

If approved by the USDE, LEAs will receive notification of their district and campus Preliminary 2008 AYP results on October 8, 2008. This notification will also include their SIP Stage Identification for the 2008-09 school year.

3. Why is there a delay in receiving the 2008 AYP results? Is there an official explanation for LEA staff, students, parents, and the community?

The completion of the TAKS-Modified (TAKS-M) student passing standard-setting process is necessary in order to include this required assessment in the 2008 AYP evaluations. The Texas Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) strongly recommended that Texas use the data collected on the students assessed on the spring 2008 test administration in order to provide the state standard setting committee with the most desirable impact data for assessing the fairness of standards for the 2% population. The TAKS-M student passing standard-setting process is scheduled for completion in August, 2008. The implementation of the new 1% and 2% federal caps and confirmation of the AYP results requires a release schedule of October 8, 2008 for Preliminary 2008 AYP results.

4. When will Texas be notified by the US Department of Education that a waiver has been granted allowing late notification of 2008 AYP and SIP results for school year 2008-09?

Although states are required to submit desired amendments to the Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook (AYP Workbook) by February 15th, Texas typically receives a response from the USDE to its AYP Workbook amendments in May of each year.

5. If Texas is not granted a waiver for a late release of 2008 AYP results, what is the planned schedule for 2008?

Other options for the Preliminary 2008 AYP release will be developed upon further discussion with the USDE.

6. Can AYP statuses be evaluated using the data available in the summer 2008, and then have a designation/addendum at a later time indicating whether the district or campus met AYP in the area of Special Education?

The TAKS-M assessment results are used to determine the 2008 AYP results in combination with all other student assessment results. NCLB regulations limit the number of proficient assessment results from alternate assessments that may be included in evaluating AYP, referred to as the AYP federal cap. Federal regulations also require that the state be consistent in its use of the scores of students tested on alternate assessments. For example, if student scores are reclassified to non-proficient because of the federal cap, they must be included as non-proficient in the AYP campus, AYP district, and AYP state performance results, as well as each student group of which the student is a member for calculating AYP.

Due to these federal requirements, the USDE typically requests that AYP results include *all* assessments required by law. One option available for Texas 2008 AYP evaluations is the assignment of all TAKS-M student results as non-proficient (failing to meet the student passing standard). Another option available is the flexibility policy, or "proxy calculation," developed by the USDE for states unable to include alternate assessment results in AYP. When modeled with Texas data, both of these options (the inclusion of TAKS-M results as non-proficient and the AYP proxy calculation) resulted in AYP evaluations that did not reflect Texas' school district efforts toward addressing the educational needs of students with disabilities. For this reason, a modified release schedule for Texas 2008 AYP results was developed and submitted for approval.

7. Why are TAKS-M results from spring 2008 being used in conjunction with SDAA II results from spring 2007 to determine AYP status and SIP identification, when those are two different tests?

Unlike state accountability that allows a transition period when new assessments are evaluated for state ratings, AYP incorporates assessment results into the AYP evaluations as soon as they are available as required by NCLB regulations. For this reason, changes in the testing program from the prior year are immediately reflected in the current AYP results. For example, the 2005 AYP evaluations included the TAKS linguistically accommodated testing (LAT) Mathematics results. If performance standard was not met in 2005, districts and campuses were able to meet AYP through the Safe Harbor/Performance Improvement calculation even though TAKS LAT was not available in 2004. In order to provide districts and campuses with the opportunity to meet AYP through the safe harbor provision in 2008, the AYP performance calculations will compare the results of the 2008 assessments with the results of the 2007 assessments.

School Improvement

8. **Will the SIP applications be approved with the early dissemination and approval of parent notification letters (PNLs), or will approval have to wait for the second round of letters to be approved before the NOGA is received?**

SIP applications will be available in September with a planning amount. NOGAs will be released once the application has been reviewed and approved providing that the PNL has been received and stamped in. If, however, the PNL is not in approvable form, districts have until November 18, 2008, to make corrections. Funds will then be suspended until the parent notification letter(s) is approved.

9. **If the district already knows it will be in school improvement for another year, can the campus(es) offer school choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) prior to receiving the SIP funds using other funds and reimburse them after we get the SIP NOGA, or do we have to wait for the SIP application and PNL approval and the NOGA?**

Due to the pre-award circumstances associated with SIP, school choice is to be offered by June 1 and SES can be offered in August using other funds that can be reimbursed after the SIP NOGA is received. See the timeline for parent notification letters discussed below.

10. **If a campus is in year 2 of our current SIP stage, will the campus still exit SIP if it were to make AYP for this year in the 2008 release in October?**

Due to the special circumstances of the late AYP release for 2008-2009, if a campus in year 2 of any stage makes AYP this year for the second consecutive year, the campus will remain in SIP as a year 2 campus for the entire year. The campus must continue offering all SIP services all year, but the campus is also eligible to continue accepting the SIP funding for the entire year.

11. **Will a campus be required to send out a PNL before school starts and one after October AYP release?**

Existing SIP campus will be required to send a PNL to parents and TEA on or before June 1, 2008. In the event that fewer than 2 options are available for school choice in the June 1, 2008, letter and a second choice becomes available after the October 2008 release, a follow up letter will be necessary. As long as the campus is able to offer two or more options for school choice in the June 1 letter, no additional options are necessary after the October release.

Campuses entering Stage 1 after the October release will be required to send the PNL to parents and TEA on or before October 20, 2008.

12. **If the AYP release delay causes a delay in the SIP application and PNL approvals and NOGA release, will SES be offered too late to be effective for students?**

As stated above, the late AYP release will not affect the funding availability; therefore, SES must be offered in August and begin within 30 days of parents selecting a Supplemental Educational Services provider. Pre-award costs may be used to ensure Supplemental Educational Services begin in a timely manner.

13. How will the AYP delay impact the use of Supplemental Educational Services providers? Will the SES providers be notified about the late AYP release?

The AYP delay will not impact the use of providers. Schools identified in Stage 2 or above in 2007-2008 are still required to send the SES parent notification packets out by the uniform school start date in August for the 2008-2009 school year. The schools that were in Stage 1 in 2007-2008, and advance to Stage 2 when the preliminary AYP results are released in October 2008 will send the SES parent notification packets out by October 20, 2008. The SES providers will be notified of the late AYP release and the impact on the timeline for services to new Stage 2, Year 1 campuses.

14. Can school choice letters go out by the uniform school start date with information on SES, but not the entire SES packet? Could the entire SES packet be sent after the late release with a revised SES PNL that notifies the parents the new stage with a reminder of SC?

School Choice parent notification letters for schools identified in SIP in 2007-2008 are required to be sent by June 1, 2008, for the 2008-2009 school year. The schools newly identified in Stage 1 in the October AYP release will have until October 20 to send out the parent notification letter for School Choice.

The entire SES parent notification packet is required to be sent out before the uniform start date in August 2008 by the schools already identified in Stage 2 or above in 2007-2008 for the 2008-2009 school year. The schools newly identified in Stage 2 in the October AYP release will have until October 20 to send out the SES parent notification packet.

15. Will TEA check for accuracy on all August PNLs and again on all the late release letters?

All PNLs will be checked for accuracy and completeness when received.

16. If the campus was in Stage 1 in 2007-08 and begins 2008-09 in Stage 1 offering school choice but then finds out in October that the campus is advancing to Stage 2 and must offer SES, what is the timeline for implementing the SES packet and PNL?

The timeline for existing SIP campuses will be as follows:

The campus must disseminate the PNL to parents and mail to TEA regarding school choice on or before June 1, 2008. Upon receipt of the October AYP rating, the LEA must prepare and disseminate the SES packet to parents and mail to TEA on or before October 20, 2008. Additional information regarding the Stage 2 status is required to be provided to parents; although it is not required to be disseminated unless the campus must also provide additional school choice options as described in Question 11 above.

17. If the campus was in Stage 1 in 2007-08 and begins 2008-09 in Stage 1 receiving campus administrative mentor (CAM) services but then finds out in October that the campus is advancing to Stage 2 and will receive an external technical assistance provider (TAP), what is the timeline for implementing the TAP services?

Campuses in this situation will begin 2008-09 with a CAM and receive three (3) days of CAM services between the beginning of the school year and the October release date. Upon the October release the campus will either begin to receive the remaining seven (7) days of CAM services or begin to receive the additional days of TAP services.

18. **If the campus was in Stage 2 in 2007-08 and begins 2008-09 in Stage 2 but then finds out in October that the campus is advancing to Stage 3 and must implement a specific corrective action, what is the timeline for implementing the corrective action chosen?**

The campus should consider the late notification and the corrective action implementation schedule when determining the appropriate corrective action for the campus. The Stage 3 campus is expected to select and implement one (or more) of the statutory corrective actions during the 2008-09 school year (which can include the 2009 summer school program, if the LEA defines its school year to include summer school).

19. **If the campus was in Stage 3 in 2007-08 and begins 2008-09 in Stage 3 but then finds out in October that the campus is advancing to Stage 4 and must develop a restructuring plan, will the late notification delay the development of the restructuring plan?**

No, the campus is required to develop the restructuring plan during the 2008-09 school year and will submit it to SIRC by the timeline established by the TEA. The campus will receive a separate letter from the TEA after the October release notifying the campus of the exact timeline; however, it is anticipated that the restructuring plan would be due to SIRC in March 2009.

20. **If the campus was in Stage 4 in 2007-08 and begins 2008-09 in Stage 4 but then finds out in October that the campus is advancing to Stage 5 and must implement its Restructuring Plan, what will the timeline be for implementing the Restructuring Plan?**

The Stage 5 campus is required to begin implementation of its Restructuring Plan (developed during school year 2007-08) during the 2008-09 school year (which can include the 2009 summer school program, if the LEA defines its school year to include summer school). The plan is to be implemented as it was developed; however, the late notification may require the implementation timeline for the plan to be revised slightly. All revisions to the implementation timeline must be submitted to SIRC within 10 days of the revision being approved by the LEA, and any significant revision will need to be reviewed by TEA.

21. **How does a campus provide school choice and/or begin Supplemental Educational Services when the campus does not know their 2008 SIP stage?**

TEA will assist those districts/campuses entering school improvement for the first time.

Districts/campuses already in a SIP stage will remain at that level until 2009-2010 unless the campus misses AYP for the same indicator and advances to the next stage. These districts/campuses are already aware of the procedures that are required and must begin planning early.

SIRC Technical Assistance

22. **When will campuses receive the SIP Introductory Meeting schedule?**

The School Improvement Resource Center (SIRC) has tentatively scheduled the Introductory meeting for December 10th, 2008. The meeting will occur the day prior to the Texas School Improvement (TSI) Conference (December 11th and 12th). Information about both events will be available on the SIRC website (www.esc13.net/sirc) and will be communicated to the principals and districts once the AYP notification is announced.

23. Will campus principals attend the SIP Introductory meeting before knowing the campus' SIP status?

The Intro meeting will be held in December after the AYP notification of campus status in October.

24. What technical assistance will be provided to SIP campuses during the first semester?

SIRC will update the website with any AYP and TEA information as it is received. Campus Administrator Mentors (CAMs) and Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) will be working with campuses that were in the program for the 2007-2008 year. The SIP Introductory meetings and TSI conference will be held in December. The SIRC team will be available to answer your questions and provide technical support over the phone or via email. You may contact them any time at sirc@esc13.txed.net or (512) 919-5220.

SIRC has tentatively scheduled Transition Meetings on June 30th through July 2nd, 2008 for campuses currently in School Improvement. June 30th is planned for Stage 1 schools, July 1st for Stage 2 schools, and July 2nd for Stage 3, 4, and 5 schools. The purpose of these meetings is to give principals and district personnel an overview of the requirements of the stage of improvement into which the school may advance. These meetings will be held at Region XIII in Austin, Texas. While the Transition meeting is not mandatory, it is highly recommended that campus and LEA personnel attend to better prepare for the next school year. More information will be forthcoming.

25. Will the districts receive an information binder from SIRC prior to the Introductory meetings?

As SIRC strives to keep the most up-to-date information in the SIRC Guidelines, the actual binder will not be available until the Introductory meeting in December. A tentative online version will be available prior to the October release date. This online version will be updated as information is made available.

26. Will there be SES meetings at SIRC this summer?

Yes. Please register for one of these meetings through E-campus (www.esc13.net). The workshop numbers and dates are as follows:

August 4, 2008	SU0812752
August 8, 2008	SU0812755
August 14, 2008	SU0812757
August 15, 2008	SU0812758

27. How can districts plan for the new year and plan a SIP budget, principal's time out of district, etc. that relates to SIP without knowing dates related to SIP?

The following dates for SIRC events may assist you with your planning:

Transition Meetings	June 30 – Stage 1 schools; or July 1 – Stage 2 schools; or July 2 – Stage 3-5 schools
SES Workshops	August 4, 8, 14, or 15
Intro Meetings	December 10
TSI Conference	December 11-12

Any additional dates will be added to the SIRC website.

28. Will campuses have to wait on SIP funds until AYP is announced?

Existing SIP campuses can apply for the 2008-2009 funds when the SIP application becomes available on eGrants September 4, 2008. Campuses will receive a planning amount. After the October 8 Preliminary AYP release, campus allocations will be finalized. Existing campuses will have pre-award funds available as of July 1, 2008.

Campuses entering School Improvement for the first time will receive an allocation after the October AYP preliminary release and will have pre-award for items not requiring specific approval available as of the October 8 AYP release date.

School Improvement Grant Application

29. What if a campus refuses the SIP funds?

All schools receiving Title I, Part A funds that are identified in any Stage of school improvement are required by statute to implement the program requirements associated with SIP, regardless of whether the campus accepts or refuses SIP funds.

30. Will the AYP delay affect SIP funds?

No. Initial planning amounts will be available for those campuses currently in the SIP program. Once the preliminary AYP status is released in October 2008, entitlement notices will be distributed.

31. How is the delayed 2008 release going to affect the SIP application process?

The SIP application process will begin when the application opens September 4, 2008, with a planning amount for all campuses currently in the SIP program. Once the application is reviewed and in approvable form, the application will be forwarded for NOGA provided the parent notification letters has been received. PNLs not in approvable form will be negotiated. Campuses will have until November 18, 2008, to submit a follow up if applicable. Funds will be placed on hold until revisions have been made in order for the parent notification to be in compliance. After the AYP release in October, final allocations will be determined.

32. Will roll forward (carryover) SIP funds be available at the beginning of the year?

Existing SIP campuses have the ability to use roll forward and pre-award for items not requiring specific approval as of July 1, 2008.

33. Will the campus receive their SIP funds in a timely manner following the October notification?

All SIP applications will be reviewed and negotiated in the order they were received and in a timely manner. The process requires LEA staff to respond to any inquiries from TEA staff in a timely manner to ensure the application is in approvable form.

34. If a campus advances into the next stage in October's release, will the campus receive additional funding? What will determine how much funding the campus will receive this school year?

After the October Preliminary AYP release, TEA is able to calculate allocations based on the number of schools identified in School Improvement. The finalized allocations will be based on the actual number

of schools identified in school improvement in each Stage using the allocation schedule under the School Improvement Program. The final allocations are expected to be an increase from the planning amounts, as the planning amounts will be based on the worst case scenario of all potential schools entering School Improvement and all existing campuses advancing to the next stage.

35. What are the award dates for 2008-09?

July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

The application will be available through eGrants on September 4, 2008, and will close November 12, 2008.

Existing SIP campuses can apply for the 2008-2009 funds when the SIP application becomes available on eGrants September 4, 2008. Campuses will receive a planning amount. After the October 8 preliminary AYP release, campus allocations will be finalized. Existing SIP campuses will have pre-award available as of July 1, 2008.

Campuses entering School Improvement for the first time will receive an allocation after the October release and will have pre-award available as of the October 8 AYP release date.