

**Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
Information Concerning Raw Score Conversion Tables
Spring 2004**

Attached are the raw score conversion tables for the grades 3-11 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests.

As indicated in Commissioner Neeley's April 16, 2004, letter, shifts in raw scores may occur to ensure that the standards remain constant across years, and these shifts may be more pronounced for tests that involve open-ended and essay questions or that have to be field-tested separately.

For the multiple-choice tests administered in spring 2004, there were one item shifts in the raw score cuts in some subject areas at various grade levels. For most of the tests with open-ended and essay questions, these shifts were larger than one item but were necessary to ensure that the standards required in 2004 do not differ from the standards required in 2003.

On the grade 10 English language arts (ELA) test, for example, the raw score cut required in 2003 to achieve the scale score standard of 2071 (the 1 SEM standard) was 44 items out of the 73 total items. Based on the results of the statistical equating of the 2004 test to the 2003 test, the 2004 test form was significantly more difficult than the 2003 test form, which meant that the raw score cut in 2004 had to be adjusted to ensure that an equivalent standard was maintained at the scale score cut of 2071. Therefore, the actual raw score cut for the grade 10 ELA test is 34 items out of the 73 total items.

A similar adjustment was necessary for the other tests with open-ended and essay questions: grade 4 writing (English- and Spanish-versions), grade 7 writing, grade 9 reading, and grade 11 ELA. The raw score cuts on these tests are lower than expected due to shifts in the difficulty of the tests administered in 2003 and 2004. For the grade 11 ELA test, there is a shift in the raw score, though it is not as significant as the other tests listed above.

The April 16, 2004, letter from Commissioner Neeley as well as an earlier letter dated April 13, 2004, which explains the statistical equating process in more detail, are available on the Texas Education Agency website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/letters/>.

Please contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536 if you have questions about the statistical equating process.