

# A Guide to the Texas Projection Measure

## 1. What is the Texas Projection Measure?

The Texas Projection Measure (TPM) is an estimate of whether a student is likely to meet the standard (pass) and/or achieve commended performance (obtain the highest performance level) on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests at a future grade. This measure is based on (1) a student's current and prior year's (if available) performance in the projected subject on TAKS and (2) the TAKS scores of other students in the campus that a student attends.

## 2. Why did Texas develop the TPM?

Texas legislation requires the Texas Education Agency to measure student progress over time. The TPM was developed to meet that requirement.

## 3. In what grades and subjects will the TPM be reported?

In 2011, TPM is reported for grade 9 reading and mathematics and for grade 10 English language arts (ELA), mathematics, social studies, and science. Students' performance at both of these grades is projected to grade 11 (exit level).

## 4. When would a student *not* have a TPM reported?

There are two reasons why a student would not have a TPM reported. First, a student who does not have enough test scores to calculate the TPM will not receive a projection. For example, if a student did not test this year in either reading or mathematics, the student will not have a TPM in any subject. Second, a student who takes TAKS, including TAKS (Accommodated) or a Linguistically Accommodated Test (LAT), in one subject and TAKS-Modified (TAKS-M) in another subject will not have a TPM reported.

## 5. What does "YES" mean? What does "NO" mean?

If a student has a "YES" for the TPM, it means that the student is estimated, or projected, to meet the standard and/or achieve commended performance at a future grade (grade 11). For instance, if a grade 10 student has "Texas Projection Measure—Projected to Meet Standard at Grade 11: YES" and "Texas Projection Measure—Projected to Achieve Commended Performance at Grade 11: YES" on her report for ELA, it means that she is likely to meet the standard and achieve commended performance on the grade 11 ELA test after receiving instruction in grade 11. Likewise, a "NO" means that the student is not projected to meet the standard at a future grade. For instance, if a grade 10 student has "Texas Projection Measure—Projected to Meet Standard at Grade 11: NO" and "Texas Projection Measure—Projected to Achieve Commended Performance at Grade 11: NO" on his report for mathematics, it means that he is not projected to meet the standard or achieve commended performance on the grade 11 mathematics test. Projections about performance in future grades can benefit students by helping parents and schools better understand where students need additional instruction and support to strengthen their skills. By strengthening their skills, students increase their chances of passing the exit level TAKS.

## 6. If a grade 10 student has a "YES" for the TPM and is estimated to pass in grade 11, does that mean that the student will definitely pass in grade 11?

No. The TPM is only a projection. In other words, it is an estimate. Many factors influence how the student will actually score on TAKS in a future grade.

## 7. Where can I go for more information about the TPM?

More information about the TPM can be found on the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/taks/tpm/index.html>