

July 22, 2011

Subject: Additional Flexibility for the 2011–2012 Testing Calendar

TO THE ESC AND DISTRICT TESTING COORDINATOR ADDRESSED:

Please DO NOT reply to this e-mail.

The purpose of this e-mail is to notify you of a number of updates to the 2011–2012 Student Assessment testing calendar. The majority of these updates have been made to provide districts with additional flexibility during the 2012 spring and summer test administrations. However, please note that there is no requirement to implement a new test administration schedule for the 2011–2012 school year. Districts may follow the local schedule already developed.

The revised calendar will be posted to the Texas Education Agency's (TEA's) website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/calendars/>.

Updates to the 2011–2012 testing calendar include the following:

- Districts will be given more latitude to adjust schedules as necessary for the test administrations at grades 3–8 during the week of April 24–April 27, 2012. State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) mathematics, reading, science, and social studies assessments are currently scheduled for specific days during that week. TEA is allowing districts flexibility to change the administration dates within that week to accommodate local needs without having to contact the agency. TEA will re-evaluate the 2012–2013 STAAR administration schedule for grades 3–8 based on feedback received from 2011–2012.
- To give districts maximum flexibility in scheduling, the STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments in spring and summer 2012 will be administered in testing windows, except for English I, English II, and English III.
  - The May testing window, which will replace the originally specified dates for STAAR EOC assessments, will be from May 7–May 18. However, the English I, English II, and English III administrations will still be administered on specified days during the week of March 26–March 29.
  - The July testing window, which will replace daily blocks of administrations of STAAR EOC assessments, will be from July 9–12.
  - The summer administration of the English I, II, and III assessments will remain on specified testing dates. However, these dates have been slightly changed to match the order of the March administrations. In addition, specific make-up days for English I have been eliminated. Make-up sessions for English I must be completed by Friday, July 13.
- The dates for the STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics and reading tests have changed in response to requests from school district personnel that all reading

and writing tests be administered on the same days to minimize disruptions to instructional time on elementary and middle school campuses. The STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics tests are now scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2012. The STAAR grades 5 and 8 reading tests are now scheduled for Wednesday, March 28. However, TEA is allowing districts additional flexibility to change the administration dates within that week to accommodate local needs without having to contact the agency.

- Specific make-up days for grade 4 writing, grade 7 writing, and English I have been eliminated. All make-up sessions for tests scheduled to be administered from March 26–March 29, 2012, must be completed by Friday, March 30.
- Assessment windows for two administrations have changed. The assessment window for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Alternate assessment, originally scheduled for January 2–April 13, 2012, is now scheduled for January 9–April 20. The testing window for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS), originally scheduled for March 5–April 6, 2012, is now scheduled for March 19–April 11.
- Dates are now included for the training of personnel from ESCs and large districts on test administration procedures. This training will occur on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 10–11, 2012.
- The date by which ESCs must have completed training school district testing personnel has been changed from January 6 to January 27, 2012.
- The date is now included for the training of ESC personnel on language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC) procedures for the assessment program. The training will be conducted through TETN from 9:00 AM to noon (CST) on January 6, 2012.
- The starting date for the TELPAS training of supplemental support providers is January 30, 2012.
- The list of subjects for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessments has changed. Texas will no longer participate in NAEP economics.
- The dates that student results are scheduled to be posted online in the “Report Dates” column of the testing calendar are no longer specified. Results will be posted online approximately five days before the reporting date indicated for each administration.
- A footnote indicating STAAR L administrations has been added.

Please call the Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536 if you have any questions about this information.

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