

August 24, 2012

To the Superintendent Addressed:

SUBJECT: 2012–2013 Mandatory Testing Activities for the Texas Assessment Program

This letter outlines mandatory testing activities and audits in 2012–2013 for the Texas student assessment program. Please see the descriptions below for activities in each testing program.

### **STAAR EOC Assessments**

In addition to students for whom STAAR is the graduation requirement, the April 2013 STAAR English III writing and English III reading assessments will be administered to students on selected campuses who are enrolled in English III but whose graduation requirement is the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). It is important to note that only campuses selected to participate in this additional mandatory sampling will be allowed to administer English III writing or English III reading to students with a TAKS graduation requirement. Campuses will receive score reports for all students who participate in this mandatory sampling.

The selection criteria used in the STAAR mandatory sampling process for 2013 are listed below.

#### Sampling Process for STAAR English III Assessments Administered to TAKS Students

- Testing is required for those campuses selected to participate.
- To reduce the overall burden at the campus level, campuses will be assigned either English III writing or English III reading.
- The maximum number of students per campus required to participate in the English III writing or the English III reading mandatory sampling is 300. Campuses may **not** exceed the maximum number of students.
- Campuses must select students whose graduation requirement is TAKS and who are enrolled in English III courses.
- Campuses selected to participate in mandatory testing will be assigned to test on paper only.
- Campuses identified as a JJAEP, DAEP, or TYC have been excluded from mandatory testing activities.
- Mandatory sampling must be administered on the same dates assigned for operational assessments.

### **STAAR Modified Assessments**

No sampling or stand-alone field testing is planned for STAAR Modified during the 2012–2013 school year.

## **STAAR Alternate Assessments**

### STAAR Alternate Interrater Reliability Study

Selected students will be sampled for the 2013 STAAR Alternate interrater reliability study. Districts will be notified in fall 2012 of the campuses selected for the interrater reliability study. While this study will require additional raters to be trained, it does not require additional testing for students. The information from this study will be used to meet federal requirements.

### STAAR Alternate Audit

Some students who are designated to participate in the 2013 STAAR Alternate will be sampled for the 2013 STAAR Alternate audit in selected subjects. Districts will be notified of the campuses selected for the audit in spring 2013. The campus will be required to submit evaluation information for those students selected to participate in the audit. The audit does not require additional testing of students. The information from this audit will be used to meet federal requirements.

No stand-alone field testing is planned for STAAR Alternate during the 2012–2013 school year.

## **STAAR L Assessments**

No sampling or stand-alone field testing is planned for STAAR L grades 3–8 or EOC assessments during the 2012–2013 school year.

## **TELPAS**

An audit will be conducted in spring 2013 to evaluate the TELPAS writing domain in grades 2–12. TEA will rescore a statewide representative sample of TELPAS student writing collections and gather information from selected testing coordinators and TELPAS raters through a required questionnaire. Districts will be notified of the campuses selected for the audit in spring 2013. The audit does not require additional testing of students. The information from this audit will be used to meet federal requirements.

## **Notification**

Campus selections for the English III mandatory sampling have been made and are listed in the Texas Assessment Management System, delivered through PearsonAccess, at <http://www.TexasAssessment.com/login>. Once logged in, click the *Reports* tab (formerly *Test Results* tab), click the *View Published Reports* link, change the administration to “2012–2013 Texas General,” and select the “Campus Field Test Assignments” file to view the testing assignments for your district and a summary of the participation guidelines for the associated mandatory testing activities. As campus assignments are posted for other mandatory testing activities, districts will be notified. Mandatory testing assignments can be accessed only from the Assessment Management System.

TEA recognizes the challenges districts and campuses face with regard to time and resources when they are selected to participate in mandatory testing activities. Your continued support of these critical activities contributes to the state’s ability to build high-quality assessments and is greatly appreciated. If you have questions about the selection process or need additional information about the 2012–2013 assessment activities, contact the Student Assessment Division. Call Pearson’s Austin Operations Center at 800-627-0225 with questions concerning access to your assignments.

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cc: ESC and District Testing Coordinators