

# Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)

## Program Overview

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) exit level tests measure examinee mastery of the state-mandated curriculum. The TAKS exit level tests are available in four subject areas: English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies.

The tests are administered in March, July, and October. Examinees who were enrolled in grade 9 in 2010–2011 or earlier must pass all four subject areas to meet assessment graduation requirements for a Texas public school diploma. Any student for whom TAKS is a graduation requirement may test during any of the TAKS test administrations.

## Assessment Scores

The following gives a brief description of the scores provided for the TAKS assessments. For more detailed technical information about scores, refer to the [Technical Digest](#), available on TEA's Student Assessment Division website.

### Raw Score

The raw score is the number of items answered correctly on a subject-area assessment. The raw score is reported by overall assessment and by reporting category. By itself, the raw score has limited utility; it can be interpreted only in reference to the total number of items on a subject-area assessment, and raw scores should not be compared across administrations.

### Scale Score

The scale score is a statistic that allows a comparison of scores by adjusting for variations in the difficulty of the forms used in different administrations. Thus, the scale score can be used to determine whether a student met the standard or achieved commended performance or to compare one student to another taking the same subject-area assessment. However, the scale score cannot be used to evaluate a student's progress across subject areas. On the TAKS scale, the passing standard is 2100 and the commended standard is 2400.

## Assessment Standards

The following gives a brief description of the standards used on the TAKS assessments. For more detailed technical information on assessment standards, refer to the [Technical Digest](#), available on TEA's Student Assessment Division website.

## Commended Performance

This category represents high academic achievement. Students in this category performed at a level that was considerably above the state passing standard for that assessment. Students demonstrated a thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills measured.

## Met Standard

This category represents satisfactory academic achievement. Students in this category performed at a level that was at or somewhat above the state passing standard for that assessment. Students demonstrated a sufficient understanding of the knowledge and skills measured.

## Did Not Meet Standard

This category represents unsatisfactory academic achievement. Students in this category performed at a level that was below the state passing standard for that assessment. Students demonstrated an insufficient understanding of the knowledge and skills measured.

## Met The THECB Standard For Higher Education Readiness

TAKS contains a Higher Education Readiness Component (HERC) on the exit level ELA and mathematics assessments. Performance on these assessments will be used to assess a student's readiness to enroll in an institution of higher education. A student who meets the HERC standard, as set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), will be exempt from the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) in Section 51.3062 of the Texas Education Code.

## **Report Formats**

Standard and additional reports are available for the TAKS assessments. Standard reports are provided automatically to districts. Additional reports are available for a nominal fee to districts. A district must submit a request through the TAKS Assessment Management System to receive the additional reports.

Reports that include “confidential” in the title contain student-level results. More information about the confidentiality of students' results is contained in the [“General Information”](#) section of this manual.

Note that the sample reports included in this guide are for illustration only. They are provided to show the basic layout of the reports and the information they provide. Some information might not correspond to real values.

## Resources

Refer to the “[General Information](#)” section of this guide and [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#) for additional TAKS information and resources.

## Standard Reports

Information contained in the standard reports is sufficient to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements (refer to the “[General Information](#)” section). The following section of the guide describes the TAKS standard reports that districts receive.

Confidential Student Report	6.5
Confidential Student Label	6.9
Confidential Campus Roster	6.12
Electronic Individual Student Record File (Confidential)	6.15

## Confidential Student Report

Example shown: [Grade 12 TAKS Exit Level](#)

A separate **Confidential Student Report (CSR)** is provided for each student for whom a TAKS online record was submitted. Assessment results are shown for each subject area assessed. Information from this report is useful when reporting results to students and parents.

**Available:**

TAKS subject-area results are combined in one report.

### **A. Identification information**

The top of the CSR contains identification information, both for the student (name, identification number, etc.) and the school (district, campus, etc.). For confidentiality, the student identification number (PEIMS) is indicated by five asterisks followed by the last four digits of the ID number. The grade, date of testing, and the report date are also indicated. The date of testing will be the month and year the assessment occurred.

### **B. Objectives listed by subject area**

Objectives are listed in abbreviated form. For more information about objectives and the content of each assessment, refer to [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#).

### **C. Written composition rating**

This section indicates the composition rating and analytic scoring information, if any, assigned to the student's written composition.

Composition ratings are listed below.

0 = Nonscorable Response (0 out of a possible 4)

1 = Ineffective Response (1 out of a possible 4)

2 = Somewhat Effective Response (2 out of a possible 4)

3 = Generally Effective Response (3 out of a possible 4)

4 = Highly Effective Response (4 out of a possible 4)

Analytic scores are given only to compositions rated 0 or 1 and are listed below.

- Weak Focus and Coherence
- Weak or Illogical Organization
- Weak Development of Ideas
- Little or No Sense of Voice
- Little or No Control of Conventions
- Off Topic Response
- Indecipherable Response
- Insufficient Response
- No Writing Attempted

**D. Objective-level results and raw score**

The total number of items answered correctly and the number of items assessed for each objective are found next to each objective heading. The bottom of these columns shows the total number of items answered correctly (the raw score) followed by the total number of items on the assessment.

**E. Short answer rating**

The ELA assessments include short answer questions with scores ranging from 0 to 3.

Short answer ratings are listed below.

- Insufficient (0 out of a possible 3)
- Partially Sufficient (1 out of a possible 3)
- Sufficient (2 out of a possible 3)
- Exemplary (3 out of a possible 3)

**F. Test information**

Information about the assessment is provided whenever the student is assessed with something other than the general TAKS assessment. This is shown for both the current administration and the previous administrations of an assessment. The description of any single character used in the info column will also be listed at the bottom of the page.

Possible messages are listed below. Changes in policy might result in different messages.

**b Braille**

A braille version was indicated for this subject.

**G. Test results**

In place of a scale score, a variety of report comments might appear in each subject area, indicating the student's performance status or scoring information.

Possible messages are listed below. Changes in policy might result in different messages.

- **ABSENT**  
The student was absent during the assessment.

- **ARD DECISION**  
The student did not participate on the basis of special education, as determined by the ARD committee.
- **NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE**  
No information is available for this subject.
- **NOT SCORED**  
The student's online record was coded "OTHER" for reasons such as illness during the assessment or administration irregularities. This designation might also indicate that the student was not assessed because of a one-time LEP postponement.
- **PREVIOUSLY MET STANDARD**  
Student met the standard in a previous administration.

**H. Scale score**

The scale score corresponding to the raw score shows the student's performance on the assessment. The scale score is shown for all exit level subjects. Scale scores are shown for both the current and previous administrations of an assessment. The raw score conversion tables for all TAKS administrations can be found on [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#).

**I. Met Standard and Commended Performance**

It is indicated for each subject area whether the standard was met and if commended performance was achieved. This is shown for both the current administration and previous administrations of an assessment.

**J. Scale score graph**

The graph of the scale score shows a visual representation of how far the student's score is above or below the passing standard and the commended standard.

**K. THECB Standard for Higher Education Readiness**

"Met THECB Standard for Higher Education Readiness" will appear in each subject area if an exit level examinee met the THECB standard in ELA or mathematics. To meet this standard on the mathematics assessment, an examinee must receive a scale score of 2200 or higher. To meet this standard on the ELA assessment, an examinee must receive a scale score of 2200 or higher and a written composition score of 3 or higher.

**L. Student Portal information**

This provides the web address and access code for parents and students to access information from the Confidential Student Report online.

**M. Document number and process number**

The document number found in the bottom left corner of the report is a unique number, per administration, that is assigned to the student's record by the testing contractor. Refer to this number if questions arise about the student's results. The process number found in the bottom right corner of the report is a unique number, per administration, that is assigned to the report by the testing contractor.



## Confidential Student Label

Example shown: [Grade 12 TAKS Exit Level](#)

An adhesive **Confidential Student Label** is provided for each examinee for whom a TAKS online record was submitted. Assessment results are shown for each subject assessed, and these labels should be placed on the individual student's permanent record. Districts also have the option of not receiving labels.

**Available:**

TAKS subject-area results are combined on one label per student.

**A. Identification information**

Identification information shown at the top of the label includes the student name, student identification number (as used for PEIMS), birth date, district number and name, campus number and name, and grade.

**B. Test date**

The assessment date when the student passed or the student's most recent performance status is given for each subject area.

**C. Scale score**

The scale score corresponding to the student's subject-area raw score is shown for each subject. Scale scores are shown for all exit level subjects. A '+' sign appears after the scale score for exit level ELA and mathematics if the student met the HERC college readiness standard. The raw score conversion tables for all TAKS administrations can be found on [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#).

**D. Met Standard and Commended Performance**

The label indicates for each subject whether the standard was met and whether commended performance was achieved.

**E. Test status**

In place of a scale score, a variety of report comments might appear in each subject area, indicating the student's performance status or scoring information.

Possible messages are listed below. Changes in policy might result in different messages.

- **ABSENT**  
The student was absent during the assessment.
- **ARD DECISION**  
The student did not participate on the basis of special education, as determined by the ARD committee.
- **NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE**  
No information is available for this subject.

- **NOT SCORED**

The student's online record was coded "OTHER" for reasons such as illness during the assessment or administration irregularities. This designation might also indicate that the student was not assessed because of a one-time LEP postponement.

- **PREVIOUSLY MET STANDARD**

Student met the standard in a previous administration.

**F. Test information**

Information about the assessment is provided whenever the student is assessed with something other than the general TAKS assessment. This is shown for all exit level subjects. The information is indicated by a single character, and the description of any single character used will also be listed on the label.

The single character and description are listed below. Changes in policy might result in different messages.

**b Braille**

A braille version was indicated for this subject.

		CONFIDENTIAL			G R A D E 12
<b>A</b>	STUDENT: LASTNAME FIRSTNAME				
	STUDENT-ID (PEIMS): 123456789	DOB: 04/28/97			
	DISTRICT: 999-001 EXAMPLE ISD				
	CAMPUS: 001 EXAMPLE H S				
<b>F</b>	<i>b Braille Version</i>				<b>Exit Level</b>
	Info	Test Date	Scale Score	Met Std.	Commented
	ELA	03/16	2014	NO	NO
	Math	03/16	2449	YES	YES
	Soc. Studies	03/16	2414	YES	YES
	Science	03/16	ABSENT	-	-

**B**

**C**

**E**

**D**

## Confidential Campus Roster

Example shown: [Mathematics](#) (all subjects are shown separately)

The **Confidential Campus Roster (All Students)** is available for each grade assessed at each campus and lists every student for whom a TAKS online record was submitted. This report provides detailed student-level results for each subject area assessed.

The **Confidential Campus Roster (Students Not Meeting Standard)** is available for each grade assessed at each campus and lists every student for whom a TAKS online record was submitted, but did not pass the subject-area assessment.

**Available:**

TAKS subject-area results are reported separately.

**Standard Confidential Campus Rosters:**

- All Students
- Students Not Meeting Standard

**Students NOT included in the objective summary results of the reports:**

- Braille version of all subjects

**A. Identification information**

The top of the report contains identification information for the campus. The grade, date of testing, and the report date are also indicated. The date of testing will be the month and year the assessment occurred.

**B. Student information**

Students are identified by name and student identification number (as used for PEIMS).

**C. Scale score**

The scale score corresponding to the student's subject-area raw score is shown. The scale score is shown for all exit level subjects. The raw score conversion tables for all TAKS administrations can be found on [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#).

**D. Met Standard and Commended Performance**

It is indicated for each subject area whether the standard was met and whether commended performance was achieved.

**E. Objectives**

Objectives are listed in abbreviated form. For more information about objectives and the content of each assessment, refer to [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#).

**F. Objective-level results**

The total number of items assessed for the objective and the number of items correct for each student are found below the objective heading. In place of objective-level data, a variety of report comments might appear, indicating the student's performance status or scoring information.

Possible messages are listed below. Changes in policy might result in different messages.

- **BRILLE - SEE CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT REPORT**  
A braille version was indicated for this subject. For the ELA assessments, some items cannot be appropriately brailled and are omitted from the braille version. Objective-level results from the braille assessments are not included on the report.
- **NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE**  
An online record was not submitted for this subject.
- **NOT SCORED**  
The student's online record was coded "OTHER" for reasons such as illness or administration irregularities. This designation might also indicate that the student was not assessed because of a one-time LEP postponement.
- **NOT SCORED - PREVIOUSLY MET STANDARD**  
Student met the standard in a previous administration.
- **NOT TESTED: ARD DECISION**  
The student did not participate on the basis of special education, as determined by the ARD committee.
- **NOT TESTED - ABSENT**  
The student was absent during the assessment.

#### **G. Test information**

Information about the assessment is provided whenever the student is assessed with something other than the general TAKS assessment. The information is indicated by a single character, and the description of any single character used will also be listed on the label.

The single characters and descriptions are listed below. Changes in policy might result in different messages.

##### **b Indicates braille version. Data are not included in objective summary results.**

A braille version was indicated for this subject.

#### **H. Process number**

The process number found in the bottom right corner of the report is a unique number, per administration, that is assigned to the report by the testing contractor.



## Electronic Individual Student Record File (Confidential)

The **Electronic Individual Student Record File** contains individual data records for each student for whom an online record was submitted. The student record includes identification and demographic data as well as subject-area scores. Objective-level data are also included. TAKS subject-area data are combined on the same file.

## Additional Reports

Refer to the “[Standard Reports](#)” section for examples of these reports.

Additional reports for the following standard reports are available for a fee to districts. A district must submit a request through the Assessment Management System to receive the additional reports, which includes additional copies of paper reports.

- Confidential Student Report
- Confidential Student Label
- Confidential Campus Roster, All Students
- Confidential Campus Roster, Students Not Meeting Standard







