

# Texas requesting waiver from assessing speaking & listening in ELA assessments

May 6, 2016

Texas intends to request a waiver from the United States Department of Education (USDE) to delay implementation of assessments of speaking and listening in English Language Arts assessments until the 2017-18 school year at the earliest.

The USDE is allowing states to request a waiver from assessing speaking and listening as part of its English language arts assessments. The Texas State Board of Education has adopted the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum standards in English language arts and reading which include standards for speaking and listening. Federal law requires assessments include all adopted content standards; however, measuring the full range of speaking and listening in a large-scale summative assessment is not practical at this time.

As a result, Texas is seeking a waiver from this requirement pursuant to section 8401(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Specifically, Texas is requesting a limited waiver of section 1111(b)(3)(C)(ii) of the ESEA, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), so that the state's assessment system need not measure the full range of standards in the speaking and listening strand at this time.

The requested waiver would be effective through the 2016-17 school year. Texas will continue to develop best practices with respect to assessing speaking and listening on large-scale assessments, though it may request an extension of the waiver for subsequent years.

A copy of the proposed waiver request and official public notice can be found in the May 6, 2016 issue of the [Texas Register](#). Comments on the waiver request may be submitted electronically to [studenta@tea.texas.gov](mailto:studenta@tea.texas.gov). The comment period begins May 6, 2016 and ends June 6, 2016.