



Technical
DIGEST

FOR THE **ACADEMIC YEAR 2008–2009**

A Collaborative Effort of
the Texas Education Agency
and Pearson



Table of Contents

List of Tables.....	xii
List of Figures	xiv
List of Appendices	xv
About the Technical Digest	xvi
Chapter 1 Historical Overview of Assessment in Texas	1
Assessment Provisions in State Law and Administrative Rule	6
Texas Education Code	6
Texas Administrative Code	7
Curriculum Guidelines for Assessment	9
Chapter 2 Building a High-Quality Assessment System	11
Annual Test Development Activities	11
Groups Involved.....	13
Student Assessment Division	13
Pearson	13
ETS	13
Questar Assessment, Inc.	13
Tri-Lin.....	13
Texas Educators	14
Item Development and Review	14
Item Guidelines.....	14
Item Writers	14
Training	15
Contractor Review	15
TEA Review	15
Educator Committee Review	15
Item-Review Committees.....	16
Pilot Testing	17
Field Testing and Data Review.....	18
Sampling Procedures.....	18
Data Review Committees.....	19
Statistical Analyses	19
Item Bank	20
Test Construction	20
Security	21
History of Test Security-Related Activities.....	22
Light Marks Analysis.....	24





Task Force on Test Integrity	25
Changes in Security Procedures Made Prior to the 2008–2009 School Year	26
Document Retention	28
Oath of Test Security and Confidentiality.....	29
Active Monitoring of Test Administrations	29
Enhanced Security Efforts in 2008–2009	29
Student Success Initiative	31
The Grade Placement Committee.....	32
Grade Placement Committee Manual	33
Alternate Assessment Option.....	34
Quality-Control Procedures	34
Reporting of Test Results.....	34
Ongoing Quality Control.....	39
Performance Assessments Used On TAKS, TAKS (Accommodated), and TAKS–M.....	40
TAKS, TAKS (Accommodated), and TAKS–M	40
TAAS Exit Level.....	41
Scoring Facilities.....	41
Scoring Staff.....	41
Prompt Development, Field Testing, and the Rangefinding Process	42
Reader Training Process.....	43
The ePEN System.....	44
Training Procedures	44
Validity System.....	46
Nonscorable Responses.....	46
Resolution Procedures	46
Data Entry Procedures and Resulting Reports	47
Score Reliability and Validity Information: TAKS, TAKS (Accommodated), and TAKS–M.....	47
Field-Test Response Scoring: TAKS, TAKS (Accommodated), and TAKS–M	48
Appeals: All Projects	48
Chapter 3 Standard Technical Processes	49
Overview	49
Standards	50
Scaling	52
Equating	53
Reliability.....	54



Validity.....	54
Measures of Student Progress	55
Sampling	55
Technical Details and Procedures.....	56
Standards	56
Modified Item-Mapping Method	56
Other Methods Used in Texas.....	57
Performance Level Descriptions.....	58
Scaling	59
Equating	61
Rationale	62
Pre-equating	63
Post-equating.....	63
Field-Test Equating.....	64
Comparability Analysis.....	65
Reliability.....	66
Internal Consistency Estimates	66
Interrater Reliability.....	68
Measurement Error.....	68
Validity.....	71
Evidence Based on Test Content.....	71
Evidence Based on Response Processes.....	72
Evidence Based on Internal Structure	73
Evidence Based on Relationships to other Variables.....	73
Evidence Based on Consequences of Testing.....	73
Measures of Annual Improvement	74
Sampling	74
Key Concepts of Sampling.....	74
Reasons for Sampling.....	75
Sampling Designs	76
Chapter 4 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), TAKS (Accommodated), and Linguistically Accommodated Testing (LAT).....	79
Overview	79
TAKS	79
Spanish TAKS.....	80
TAKS (Accommodated)	80
Linguistically Accommodated Testing (LAT)	80
Testing Requirements for Graduation	81



Test Development.....	82
Item Development Approach for Spanish TAKS	82
Spanish-English TAKS Alignment	82
Training.....	83
District and Campus Coordinator Manual	83
Test Administrations.....	84
Overview	84
Make-up Testing	85
Out-of-District Testing.....	85
Out-of-School Testing.....	86
Testing Accommodations	86
Overview	86
Accommodations Categories	87
Linguistic Accommodations	87
Dyslexia Accommodations—TAKS Reading.....	89
Oral Administration.....	90
Students with Visual Impairments.....	90
Accommodations Manual.....	90
Educational Materials Required for Testing—TAKS, TAKS (Accommodated), and TAKS–M.....	90
Online Testing.....	91
TAKS Exit Level	92
Student Success Initiative	93
Scores and Reports.....	94
Description of Scores.....	94
Report Formats	94
TAKS and TAKS (Accommodated).....	94
Optional Reports	98
Parent Brochures	100
Standard Setting.....	101
Scaling	103
Scale Score.....	103
Vertical Scale Score.....	105
TAKS Results for Individual Students	107
Groups of Students.....	108
Equating	109
Overview	109
Pre-Equating	109
Post-Equating	109



	Field-Test Equating	110
	Comparability Analyses	110
	Reliability	111
	Internal Consistency	111
	Classical Standard Error of Measurement	112
	Conditional Standard Error of Measurement	112
	Classification Accuracy.....	113
	Validity.....	113
	Evidence Based on Test Content.....	113
	Evidence Based on Response Processes.....	114
	Evidence Based on Internal Structure	115
	Evidence Based on Relationships to Other Variables	116
	Evidence Based on Consequences of Testing.....	117
	Performance Assessments Used On TAKS and TAKS (Accommodated)	117
	Measures of Annual Improvement	119
	Sampling	121
Chapter 5	TAKS–Modified (TAKS–M)	123
	Overview	123
	TAKS–M Participation Requirements	124
	Test Development.....	125
	TEA Review	126
	Educator Review Committee Meetings	126
	Evaluating Potential Bias in the Assessment.....	127
	Training	127
	Test Administrations.....	128
	Testing Accommodations	128
	Student Success Initiative	129
	Scores and Reports	129
	Description of Scores.....	129
	Report Formats	130
	Standard and Optional Reports for TAKS–M	130
	Parent Brochure	131
	Standard Setting.....	131
	Scaling.....	133
	Scale Score.....	133
	Equating	134
	Reliability.....	135
	Internal Consistency.....	135



Classical Standard Error of Measurement	135
Conditional Standard Error of Measurement.....	136
Classification Accuracy.....	136
Validity.....	136
Evidence Based on Test Content	136
Evidence Based on Response Processes.....	137
Evidence Based on Internal Structure	138
Evidence Based on Relationships to Other Variables.....	138
Evidence Based on Consequences of Testing	138
Sampling	139
Chapter 6 TAKS–Alternate (TAKS–Alt)	141
Overview	141
TAKS–Alt Participation Requirements.....	142
ARD Manual	143
Test Development.....	143
Complexity Level of Assessment Tasks.....	144
Educator Review Committee Meetings	145
Evaluating Bias in the Assessment.....	146
Training	146
TAKS–Alt Online Training and Qualification	147
Module 1: Overview of the TAKS–Alt Assessment.....	147
Module 2: Implementing the TAKS–Alt Assessment.....	147
Module 3: The TAKS–Alt Online Instrument.....	147
Test Administrations.....	148
Testing Accommodations	148
Student Success Initiative	148
Scores and Reports	148
Scoring TAKS–Alt Assessments	148
Scoring Steps for TAKS–Alt	149
Report Formats	151
Standard and Optional Reports	151
Parent Brochure	151
Standard Setting.....	152
Approved Cut Scores	153
Scaling	153
Equating	153
Reliability.....	154
The Interrater Reliability Study.....	154
Validity	157



Evidence Based on Test Content.....	157
Evidence Based on Response Processes.....	158
Evidence Based on Internal Structure	160
Evidence Based on Relationships to Other Variables.....	160
Evidence Based on Consequences of Testing.....	162
Sampling	163
Interrater Reliability Sampling.....	163
Validity Audit Sampling	164
Chapter 7 Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)	165
Overview	165
Test Development and Administration	166
Historical Overview	166
TELPAS Reading Tests for Grades 2–12.....	167
TELPAS Holistically Rated Assessments.....	168
Holistic Rating Training	169
Scores and Reports	170
Language Domain Scores	173
TELPAS Comprehension and Composite Scores.....	173
Use of Reports	175
Standard and Optional Reports.....	175
Parent Brochures	175
Interpreting TELPAS Reports	175
Audits.....	176
Standard Setting.....	176
Scaling	177
Vertical Scale Score.....	177
Scale for Holistically Rated Assessments	178
Scale for the Composite Rating.....	178
Equating	178
Reliability.....	179
Internal Consistency	179
Classical Standard Error of Measurement	180
Conditional Standard Error of Measurement.....	180
Classification Accuracy.....	180
Interrater Reliability.....	180
Validity.....	181
Evidence Based on Test Content.....	181
TELPAS Multiple-Choice Components	182



	TELPAS Holistically Rated Components	184
	Evidence Based on Response Processes	184
	Evidence Based on Internal Structure	185
	Evidence Based on Relationships to Other Variables	186
	Evidence Based on Consequences of Testing	188
	Sampling	188
Chapter 8	End-of-Course Assessments.....	189
	Overview	189
	EOC Participation Requirements	191
	Test Development.....	191
	Test Administrations.....	192
	Online Testing.....	192
	The Online Test Delivery System	192
	Testing Accommodations	193
	Scores and Reports	193
	Description of Scores.....	193
	Report Formats	194
	Standard Reports	194
	New reports in 2008–2009	194
	Standard Setting.....	195
	Scaling	195
	Scale Score.....	195
	Raw Score.....	196
	Equating	196
	Pre-Equating	196
	Field-Test Equating	196
	Comparability Analyses	197
	Reliability.....	197
	Internal Consistency	197
	Classical Standard Error of Measurement	198
	Conditional Standard Error of Measurement.....	198
	Classification Accuracy.....	198
	Validity.....	198
	Evidence Based on Test Content.....	198
	Evidence Based on the Response Process.....	200
	Evidence Based on Internal Structure	201
	Evidence Based on Relationship to Other Variables.....	201
	Evidence Based on the Consequences of Testing	201
	Student Growth and Projection Measures.....	201

Sampling	202
EOC Field-Test Sampling Process	202
Chapter 9 Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) Exit Level	205
Overview	205
Participation Requirements.....	205
Testing Requirements for Graduation	205
Test Development.....	206
TAAS Exit Level: Written Composition Scoring.....	206
Scores and Reports	208
Description of Scores.....	208
Raw Score.....	208
Scale Score.....	208
Texas Learning Index	208
Reporting	209
Standard Reports	209
Chapter 10 Resources	211
Overview	211
Information Booklets	212
TAKS Information Booklets.....	212
TELPAS Reading Information Booklet.....	213
Study Guides.....	214
Personalized Study Guides	214
Procedural Manuals.....	215
Accommodations Manual.....	215
ARD Manual	215
GPC Manual.....	216
LPAC Manual	216
District and Campus Coordinator Manual	217
District and Campus Coordinator Manual Supplement	217
Released Tests.....	218
Interpreting Assessment Reports.....	218
Bibliography	219





List of Tables

- Table 1. Item Review Guidelines
- Table 2. Classification Accuracy for Met Standard and Did Not Meet Standard
- Table 3. 2008–2009 TAKS Assessments
- Table 4. 2008–2009 TAKS Online Test Administrations
- Table 5. Current Performance Standards for 2009 and Recommended Standards for 2010 for TAKS English Reading and Mathematics
- Table 6. Current Performance Standards for 2009 and Recommended Standards for 2010 for TAKS Spanish Reading and Mathematics
- Table 7. Scale Score Transformation Constants for the TAKS English Tests
- Table 8. Scale Score Transformation Constants for the TAKS Spanish Tests
- Table 9. Vertical Scale Score Linking Constants for the TAKS English Tests
- Table 10. Vertical Scale Score Linking Constants for the TAKS Spanish Tests
- Table 11. Vertical Scale Transformation Constants for the TAKS English and Spanish Tests
- Table 12. Summary of Scorer Agreement (Reliability) for TAKS
- Table 13. Summary of Validity Packet Results for TAKS and TAKS (Accommodated)
- Table 14. Subjects, Grades, and Language Versions Reported for 2009 TPM
- Table 15. English TAKS Classification Accuracy for the TPM from 2008 to 2009
- Table 16. 2008–2009 TAKS–M Assessments
- Table 17. TAKS–M Educator Review Committees’ Demographic Data
- Table 18. TAKS–M Cut Scores by Grade and Subject
- Table 19. Scale Score Transformation Constants for TAKS–M
- Table 20. 2008–2009 TAKS–Alt Assessments
- Table 21. TAKS–Alt Educator Review Committees’ Demographic Data
- Table 22. Correlations Between First and Second Ratings
- Table 23. Percent Perfect Agreement Between First and Second Ratings
- Table 24. Frequency of Responses to Audit Judgment Form Items
- Table 25. Overall TAKS–Alt Correlation Between Reading Total Score and Mathematics Total Score
- Table 26. Overall TAKS–Alt Correlation Between Total Score And Gender
- Table 27. Overall TAKS–Alt Correlation Between Total Score And Ethnicity
- Table 28. Grades and Subject Areas Included in the Audit
- Table 29. Summary of 2007–2008 TELPAS Reading Test Revisions
- Table 30. Grade Clusters for 2–12 Reading
- Table 31. Weights of the Language Domains in TELPAS Composite Ratings
- Table 32. Sample Calculation of Composite Results

- Table 33. Approved Raw and Scale Score Cut Points from 2008 TELPAS Reading Proficiency Level Setting (Online Versions)
- Table 34. Vertical Scale Score Linking Constants for TELPAS Reading tests
- Table 35. Staged Linguistic Accommodation Test Design
- Table 36. 2009 English TAKS Scale Score Performance by TELPAS Reading Proficiency Rating for Students Who Participated in Both Assessments
- Table 37. EOC Assessments—Implementation Plan
- Table 38. EOC Assessments Administered Online in 2008–2009
- Table 39. Scaling Constant for EOC Assessments
- Table 40. Sampling Summary for 2009 EOC Stand-Alone Field Tests
- Table 41. Students Tested in 2008–2009 TAAS Administrations
- Table 42. Reader Agreement Rates for 2008–2009 TAAS Administrations
- Table 43. Quick Guide to Online References





List of Figures

- Figure 1. Test Development Process
- Figure 2. The Standard-Setting Process
- Figure 3. Relationship between Raw Scores and Scale Scores at the Performance Standards
- Figure 4. Field-Test Equating Process

List of Appendices

Appendix A

TAKS Sample Light Marks Analysis Report

Appendix B

TAKS Statistical Tables

Appendix C

TAKS–M Statistical Tables

Appendix D

TAKS–Alt Statistical Tables

Appendix E

TELPAS Statistical Tables

Appendix F

EOC Statistical Tables





About the Technical Digest

The *Technical Digest* is designed to provide information to Texas testing coordinators, educators, researchers, and interested citizens about the development procedures and technical attributes of the state-mandated assessment program. This digest does not include all the information available about the assessment program in Texas. Additional information is available on the [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) Student Assessment Division website](#). For materials not found on the website or for questions concerning information in this digest, contact the TEA Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536 or by e-mail at Student.Assessment@tea.state.tx.us.

The *Technical Digest* for 2008–2009 is designed primarily as a web-based document. The entire text of the *Technical Digest* along with the documents referenced and the technical reports in support of information in the *Technical Digest* are available on [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#).