February 10, 2011

TO REGIONAL AND DISTRICT TESTING AND SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATORS

We hope everyone’s New Year is off to a great start. This is the time of year that the TEA Student Assessment Division begins revising our manuals for the next school year. In order to better meet the needs of educators, we are soliciting feedback about the 2011-2012 ARD Manual. Specifically, we would like your feedback to the following questions:

• Were the four steps in making assessment decisions clear and concise? Was anything confusing? Do you have any suggestions related to the format of the four steps?
• Were the descriptions of the differences between accommodations and modifications clear?
• Are the student scenarios beneficial? Are there any student scenarios you would like to see?
• Which parts of the current manual prompted the most questions from your region/district? How can we clarify this information?
• What types of information would you like to see added to the ARD Manual?

Please e-mail any suggestions your region/district may have to test.accommodations@tea.state.tx.us with the subject line “2011-2012 ARD Manual.” We will be collecting comments until February 28th.

We take all of your comments seriously since you are the ones who are actually applying the information that we produce. We strive to make all communications clear, accurate, and useful.

Thank you for assisting us with this process. If you have any questions, please call the Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536 and ask to speak with a member of the Special Education Assessments Team.