

Texas Education Agency

Performance-Based Monitoring Division

PBMAS Regional Masking Rules (2008-2010)¹

“Masking” refers to the use of special symbols to conceal data for the purpose of protecting student confidentiality. The Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System (PBMAS) masks data in order to comply with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Data is masked by concealing information that could lead to the identification, either directly or indirectly, of a student. For the region reports, PBMAS masks numerators and denominators according to the procedure below. State data **are not** masked. The asterisk (*) is used as the masking character. The following rules are listed in order of priority.

Step 1: Masking for all Indicators

- 1) If the number of students in the denominator is less than 5 (including 0):
Numerator: print an asterisk (*)
Denominator: print an asterisk (*)

Step 2: Additional Masking for all Indicators

- 2) If the District Rate is 100% or rounds to 100%:
Numerator: print an asterisk (*)
Denominator: print an asterisk (*)
- 3) If the District Rate is 0% or rounds to 0%:
Numerator: print an asterisk (*)
Denominator: print an asterisk (*)
- 4) If the difference between the numerator and the denominator is less than 3:
Numerator: print an asterisk (*)
Denominator: print an asterisk (*)
- 5) If the numerator is less than 5 (including 0):
Numerator: print an asterisk (*)
Denominator: print an asterisk (*)

¹ Region reports were produced for the first time in 2007. That year’s region reports were masked using the same rules applied to the district reports, as outlined in the “2004-2008 PBMAS Masking Rules” document.

Step 3: Additional Masking

The following rules are used for certain PBMAS indicators to prevent the ability to calculate numerators and denominators of related indicators that were masked by previous rules.

- 6) If the **SPED Representation**² indicator is masked:
Print an asterisk (*) for the numerators and denominators of all the Representation³ indicators and the Less Restrictive Environment indicators.
- 7) If the indicator is a **Difference**⁴ indicator:
If a value is masked then print an asterisk (*) for all the numerators and denominators for **that** indicator.
- 8) If the indicator is any one of the **Less Restrictive Environment (LRE)** indicators:
If a value is masked then print an asterisk (*) for all numerators and denominators for **all** the LRE indicators.

² SPED Representation was previously named SPED Identification.

³ Representation Indicators: African American Representation, Hispanic Representation, and LEP Representation

⁴ Difference Indicators: The representation indicators plus Discretionary DAEP Placement, Discretionary In-School Suspension (ISS), and Discretionary Out-of-School Suspension (OSS).