

December 22, 2020

Subject: Award of Student Assessment Contracts

To the ESC and District Testing Coordinator Addressed:

This communication is to inform you of the selection of Cambium Assessment, Inc. and NCS Pearson, Inc. as the vendor team to support the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in the development, administration, scoring, and reporting for the Texas Student Assessment Program beginning September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2024.

ETS (Educational Testing Service) and Pearson will continue their respective work under their existing contracts through the completion of the spring and summer 2021 administrations, concluding their work on August 31, 2021.

Under the new contracts, Cambium will host and manage a single testing platform for all assessments and manage the registration, administration, scoring, and reporting for the entire assessment portfolio—the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®), STAAR Alternate 2, the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS), and TELPAS Alternate. This also includes STAAR Interim Assessments. Cambium delivered more than 60 million online tests in 2018–2019 and currently serves 28 states and territories, as well as the College Board.

Pearson will be responsible for item development and test form construction. Pearson has supported Texas assessments for 40 years and will be a valuable resource in developing items that strongly align to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Cambium, Pearson, and TEA will work closely with education service centers (ESCs) and district testing coordinators over the next eight months to gather input and ensure a seamless transition of vendor services and support. TEA will continue to ensure that state assessments remain valid, reliable sources of information to support strong instruction and inform teachers, administrators, parents, and the community to help improve academic achievement for all Texas students. If you have any questions, please submit them to TEA using the [Student Assessment Help Desk](#).

Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division
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