

December 2, 2024

Subject: Notice of Texas' Waiver Renewal Request for Accelerated Testers

To the Regional and District Staff Addressed:

The purpose of this communication is to provide notification that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requesting a waiver renewal to continue to allow middle school students who are receiving accelerated instruction to take the assessment that corresponds with their instruction in place of their grade-level assessment. Prior to submitting the waiver renewal request to the United States Department of Education (USDE), the draft waiver, *Texas Waiver Renewal Request for Accelerated Testers*, is available for public comment and posted on the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) webpage.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) section 1111(b)(2)(B)(v)(I) allows, as an exception, grade 8 students enrolled in an advanced mathematics course to take the assessment that corresponds with the instruction in place of their grade-level assessment. Texas has previously requested and received a waiver to expand this exception to middle school students who are enrolled in advanced mathematics, reading language arts, or science courses. Texas' previous waiver expired after the 2023–2024 school year; therefore, TEA is requesting a waiver renewal.

TEA is accepting public comments regarding the need to request a waiver renewal to allow accelerated middle school students to take the assessment that aligns with their instruction in place of their grade-level assessment. Please provide comments via email to assessmentwaiver@tea.texas.gov. The public comment period begins Monday, December 2, 2024, and ends **Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. (CT)**.

Please forward this notification to all interested persons. If you have questions about the information in this communication, submit your inquiries to TEA using the [Student Assessment Help Desk](#).

Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division
(512) 463-9536