

Attachment A

2010-2011 TELPAS Holistic Rating Training

In 2010-2011 the Texas Education Agency will modify the TELPAS holistic rating training system for K-12 raters to streamline the system and make training procedures easier to follow and oversee. The modifications include –

- eliminating fall TELPAS rater training and summer training of holistic rating trainers
- no longer requiring new raters to be supported by a state-authorized holistic rating trainer during initial online training
- training district and campus staff to be able to meet supplemental training needs
- streamlining K-12 rater training terminology and processes

Background

The modifications to the training system were made in response to input from testing coordinators, bilingual/ESL coordinators, principals, holistic rating trainers, and teachers. In evaluating potential modifications, decisions were guided by desires to use resources more efficiently, make training requirements less complex, and continue to support the validity and reliability of the assessments. Over the years of the TELPAS program, several changes have occurred to make it possible to streamline the training system.

- **Training mode.** The needs new raters have for face-to-face training have diminished. The delivery of the training has gradually shifted from a paper-based to a Web-based mode. The fundamental instruction and practice that new raters need is provided via the online training system.
- **English language proficiency standards (ELPS).** Since the 2008 adoption of the English language proficiency standards (ELPS), the instruction-based reasons to have new-rater training in the fall have diminished.
- **Percentages of new versus returning raters.** The training system has evolved to focus more heavily on the need to ensure the annual preparedness of returning raters, because each year larger numbers of teachers are returning raters rather than new raters entering the system.
- **Percentages of new raters trained in fall versus spring.** Trends in use of the fall training window have changed. Districts are now training more new raters in the spring than the fall.
- **Previously communicated plans.** As communicated to districts in 2009, TEA has had a long-range plan to align the requirements for new K-1 raters with those of other raters and to incorporate all language domains in activities used to judge the preparedness of new raters.

Fall Training Activities

The training of new TELPAS raters will no longer occur in the fall. All rater training will occur in the spring.

Training was originally offered in the fall to equip new teachers to better meet the second language acquisition needs of ELLs from the beginning of the year forward. The ELPS and ELPS training opportunities now provide this support for teachers. The fall training timeframe was also intended to minimize the spring training load. Districts are now choosing to train more new raters in the spring than in the fall, and the majority of raters are now returning raters rather than new raters. The elimination of fall training requirements supports the goal of using resources more efficiently.

Though TELPAS online training courses for new raters will no longer be available in the fall, the TEA Student Assessment Division will continue to make PowerPoint slides on the holistic rating and writing collection processes

available for use in new teacher orientation sessions and other staff development initiatives. In addition, a revised *TELPAS Information Booklet* will be available in August 2010. The revised publication will encompass all grades and language domains, and it will contain student writing samples and links to film clips of students during classroom instruction. The materials, which will be posted on the Student Assessment Division website, will be available for ESCs and districts to use throughout the school year.

Spring Rater Training

The training components and processes for new and returning K-12 raters will be aligned and streamlined. The term *qualification* will no longer be used. Both new and returning raters will complete *calibration activities* to demonstrate readiness to apply the scoring rubrics consistently and accurately during the live assessments.

For both K-1 and 2-12 raters, the process will include the following components:

- New raters will complete an initial online training course followed by calibration activities.
- Returning raters will complete calibration activities.
- Both new and returning raters will be provided supplemental support if they have difficulty calibrating, followed by a final set of calibration activities.

Ensuring that all raters, whether new or veteran, are calibrated in preparation for a large-scale assessment is a standard and necessary component of holistically scored assessments. This process is used in training new and veteran scorers of TAKS written responses.

The calibration activities will be divided into sets (with a mix of language domains in each set). Raters successful in calibrating on the initial set will not need to complete additional calibration activities, which will make the training of returning raters shorter than it is currently.

The TELPAS holistic rating training binder for new raters will be eliminated, and material from it will be incorporated into the TELPAS Manual.

Roles of Testing Coordinators and State-Authorized Holistic Rating Trainers in New-Rater Training

One key change for 2010-2011 is that TEA will not require new raters to be trained by (or have the direct training support of) a state-authorized holistic rating trainer in conjunction with their initial online training. Information in the TELPAS Manual and key points reinforced through January TELPAS administration procedures training will provide new raters with sufficient preparatory information. After their session on TELPAS administration procedures, both new and returning raters should have the overview they need to proceed with their online training.

Supplemental Training

A primary role of TELPAS holistic rating trainers will be to provide supplemental assistance to the small number of new and returning raters who need support after completing their online training. TEA will no longer require that holistic rating trainers be trained directly by TEA or come from the 20 ESCs and largest ELL districts. Over the years of the TELPAS program, many raters and campus facilitators statewide have gained substantial rating experience. Student Assessment staff will develop supplemental training materials and conduct a training of trainers to enable these types of individuals to meet supplemental training needs.

Training Certificates

For the online basic training course, a certificate of completion will be issued. The calibration certificate will indicate successful completion.

Benefits of the Streamlined System

The streamlined procedures will make the training requirements less complex, which will –

- eliminate the need for intricate training flow charts
- reduce instances of raters taking the wrong online training
- help simplify coordinator reports for monitoring online training
- make the TrainingCenter website easier to use

Online Course on Assembling and Verifying Writing Collections

This optional online course will continue to be available for use in training testing personnel.

TETN Videoconferences

TEA Student Assessment Division staff will conduct a TETN videoconference (Event #7842) on May 11 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. to review this information with districts and gather input to help finalize spring 2011 calendars, plans for supplemental training, and other details.

The streamlined training will also be one of the topics covered in the Student Assessment Division's fall ELL assessment update TETN (Event #7871), which will be held on September 16 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Testing coordinators, state-authorized TELPAS trainers, and bilingual/ESL coordinators from ESCs and districts are encouraged to attend these videoconferences.