August 2, 2010

Please do NOT reply to this e-mail.

The purpose of this e-mail is to notify education service centers (ESCs) and districts of several Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) resources that are now available on the English Language Learner (ELL) Assessments page of TEA's Student Assessment Division website at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell.

In the April 21, 2010 TEA letter to districts and during the May 24, 2010 TETN videoconference, districts and ESCs were notified that several resources would be available in August 2010 for use in new teacher orientation sessions and other 2010–2011 staff development initiatives.

These resources, which are described below, not only provide an overview of TELPAS but also support the ability of teachers across the curriculum to effectively implement the Texas English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) and better meet the language and content area needs of ELLs. The resources are designed for use with teachers of all disciplines and administrators who would benefit from staff development in this area. Districts may wish to incorporate these resources into ELPS professional development activities, use them in separate staff development initiatives, or make staff aware of them in other ways.

Educator Guide to TELPAS

This Web-based guide covers all grades and domains of TELPAS and replaces the former *TELPAS Reading Information Booklet*. The guide shows the integral relationship between TELPAS and the ELPS, and includes authentic student writing, reading test samples, and links to numerous video segments of ELLs participating in classroom instruction. The guide is Web-based and will not be shipped to districts.

PowerPoint Modules

In past years several PowerPoint modules were provided to support the Web-based fall training of new TELPAS raters. Though training of new raters will no longer occur in the fall, the PowerPoint modules will continue to be available as Web resources. The modules have been updated, and they support the objectives of

1) providing a foundation for the spring training of new raters, and

2) helping teachers use the ELPS effectively throughout the year, particularly the ELPS proficiency level descriptors (PLDs).

- **PowerPoint Module: Making the ELPS-TELPAS Connection: K–12 Introduction**
  Useful for new teachers, teachers not yet trained as TELPAS raters, and campus and district staff who would benefit from more familiarity with TELPAS and the ELPS

- **PowerPoint Modules: Introductory Training on the PLDs** (separate modules for K–1 and 2–12)
  Useful for teachers who need familiarity with how to use the ELPS PLDs in instruction; lays a firm foundation for teachers who will be trained as new TELPAS raters in the spring

- **PowerPoint Module: Grades 2–12 Writing Collection Overview**
  Provides an overview of how to assemble TELPAS student writing collections for spring assessment; useful for reinforcing ELPS writing requirements in content area instruction

This e-mail is being sent to ESC and district –
➢ testing coordinators,
➢ bilingual/ESL contacts, and
➢ last year's state-authorized TELPAS training team members

Recipients of this e-mail are encouraged to coordinate with content area curriculum staff and campus administrators about ways to use these resources.

If you have questions about these resources, contact a member of the English language learner (ELL) assessment team in the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536, or send an e-mail to ell.tests@tea.state.tx.us.