Vertical Scale

Technical and Research

FAQs

1. How is the vertical scale developed?

The TAKS vertical scale is developed using a common-item nonequivalent group design. For more detailed information about the development of the vertical scale, see 2008 TAKS English Vertical Scaling Study Report and 2008 TAKS Spanish Vertical Scaling Study Report.

2. How do the academic achievement standards and the vertical scale relate?

The vertical scale provides a way to directly compare students' performance to the existing academic achievement standards at each grade level as with the horizontal scale, and additionally to evaluate students' progression from one grade to another. The vertical scale itself does not determine the academic achievement standards and does not alter the academic achievement standards from those adopted by the SBOE in 2002. However, once the vertical scale was developed, TEA convened several panels of educators to evaluate the appropriateness of the academic achievement standards on the new vertical scale and to recommend changes to those academic achievement standards where appropriate.

3. Why was a standards review conducted?

A standards review was conducted to determine if the academic achievement standards across grade levels were still appropriate when viewed on a vertical scale.

4. What changes in the academic achievement standards did the educator panels recommend?

The panels recommended changes to the academic achievement standards so that they reflected an appropriate increase in expectations

for student performance from grade to grade. The recommended changes are summarized in Table 1 and 2, with an X indicating where the standards review committees recommended an increase in the performance standards.

Table 1. Review Committees' Recommended Changes in the Performance Standards for Reading

Performance Standard	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
English Met Standard	No change	No change	No change	X	No change	X
English Commended	No change	No change	No change	X	No change	X
Spanish Met Standard	No change	No change	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spanish Commended	No change	No change	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Review Committees' Recommended Changes in the Performance Standards for Mathematics

Performance Standard	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
English Met Standard	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change
English Commended	No change	No change	X	X	No change	X
Spanish Met Standard	X	X	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spanish Commended	No change	X	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A