Determining Growth with the TAKS–Alt Growth Measure

The TAKS–Alt growth measure describes a student's score changes from one year to the next and is used to determine whether a student is on track to meet the standard and/or achieve commended performance on TAKS–Alt at a future grade. The model for the TAKS–Alt growth measure is based on a student continuing to make progress at the same rate from the current grade to future grades. The measure consists of two parts: 1) a student's **stage change** from the prior year to the current year, which is determined by representing the student's scores from a previous school year and the current school year in terms of the stage of performance achieved each year; and 2) a determination of whether the progress made is sufficient to designate the student as **on track** to meet the state's performance standards in the next growth target grade (grade 5, 8, or 11).

In 2011, only stage change information will be reported on the Confidential Student Report (CSR). Beginning in 2011–2012, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Alternate assessments will replace TAKS–Alt assessments at grades 3–11. As a result, students currently in grades 4–10 will not be able to compare their 2011 on track designations to future TAKS–Alt scores and the TAKS–Alt performance standards. On track designations based on the TAKS–Alt scoring system cannot be compared with the STAAR Alternate performance standards. Thus, on track designations for 2011 will not be reported on CSRs. On track information for students in grades 4–10 will be available in the student data file only.

This document will illustrate the steps needed to determine a student's stage change. This document includes the following sections:

1) Will stage change information be reported for the student?
2) What is the student's current stage?
3) How can I find the student's previous stage?
4) How can I describe the student's stage change?
5) Determining Growth with the TAKS–Alt Growth Measure: Student Examples

Note:

- For individual-level reporting (i.e., the CSR), only stage change information will be reported for students in grades 4–11 (on track information will **NOT** be reported).
- The student data file will continue to include the stage change information for students in grades 4–11 and on track information for students in grades 4–10 for whom such information is available.

1. Will stage change information be reported for the student?

The following information is needed:
- subject area
- student's grade level

If your student has taken TAKS–Alt in the grades and subject areas listed in Table 1, stage change information will be reported for the current year and the previous year.

Table 1. Stage Change Subjects and Grades for TAKS–Alt

TAKS–Alt Subject	Current Grade
Reading/English Language Arts	4–11
Mathematics	4–11
Science*	10–11
Social Studies*	10–11

*The prior grade for science and social studies is grade 8.

To determine a student's stage change, two years of data are needed for tests administered no more than two years apart. Stage change information is provided on the CSR only if your student has a score for the current grade and a previous grade (either one or two grades prior) in the same subject.

For students who are Not Assessed or for whom No Response Observed (NRO) is reported for a subject either in the current year or a previous year, the student report will indicate this information for stage change. For students who have no information from a previous year, the report will indicate "No Information Available" for the stage change.

2. What is the student's current stage?

The following information is needed:
- student's current score on TAKS–Alt

A student's score on TAKS–Alt can range from 0–72 points. This score range has been divided into 10 stages. The stages are labeled A through J, with A being the lowest stage and J being the highest stage. Stages A through E correspond to Did Not Meet Standard, stages F through I correspond to Met Standard, and stage J corresponds to Commended Performance. Table 2 can be used to look up a student's current score to determine the corresponding stage.

Table 2. TAKS–Alt Growth Measure Stages

Performance Category	Stage	Score Points
Did Not Meet Standard	A	0–19
	B	20–25
	C	26–31

	D	32–37
	E	38–43
Met Standard	F	44–49
	G	50–55
	H	56–61
	I	62–67
Commended Performance	J	68–72

3. How can I find the student's previous stage?

The following information is needed:
- student's previous score on TAKS–Alt

If a student's previous score on TAKS–Alt is available in the same subject, Table 2 can be used to look up the student's previous score to determine the corresponding stage.

4. How can I describe the student's stage change?

The following information is needed:
- student's current stage on TAKS–Alt
- student's previous stage on TAKS–Alt in the same subject area

A student's current stage and previous stage are included on the CSR. This information is used to determine the student's stage change from the previous year to the current year. Stage change information can also be used with the Stage Change Table (Table 3 below) to explain student score changes. Locate the student's previous year stage along the left side of the table, and then find the student's current year stage across the top of the table. The letter at the intersection of these two stages describes the change in student score from the previous year to the current year. The descriptive labels are: SI=Significantly Improved, I=Improved, M=Maintained, SR=Slightly Regressed, and R=Regressed.

Table 3. TAKS–Alt Growth Measure—Stage Change Table

Previous Year TAKS–Alt Performance		Current Year TAKS–Alt Performance									
		Did Not Meet Standard					Met Standard				Commended Performance
		Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E	Stage F	Stage G	Stage H	Stage I	Stage J
Did Not Meet Standard	Stage A	**M**	**I**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**
	Stage B	**SR**	**M**	**I**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**
	Stage C	**R**	**SR**	**M**	**I**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**
	Stage D	**R**	**R**	**SR**	**M**	**I**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**
	Stage E	**R**	**R**	**R**	**SR**	**M**	**I**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**
Met Standard	Stage F	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**SR**	**M**	**I**	**SI**	**SI**	**SI**
	Stage G	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**SR**	**M**	**I**	**SI**	**SI**
	Stage H	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**SR**	**M**	**I**	**SI**
	Stage I	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**SR**	**M**	**I**
Commended Performance	Stage J	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**R**	**SR**	**M**

Note. SI=Significantly Improved, I=Improved, M=Maintained, SR=Slightly Regressed, R=Regressed

Determining Growth with the TAKS–Alt Growth Measure

Student Examples

Student A Information

Subject area: mathematics

Student's current grade level: 4

Student's previous grade level: 3

Student's current score on TAKS–Alt: 40

Student's previous score on TAKS–Alt: 27

Determining Growth for Student A

Will stage change information be reported (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage E
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	Stage C
How can I describe my student's stage change (use Table 3)?	Significantly Improved

Student B Information

Subject area: reading

Student's current grade level: 9

Student's previous grade level: 8

Student's current score on TAKS–Alt: 35

Student's previous score on TAKS–Alt: 42

Determining Growth for Student B

Will stage change information be reported (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage D
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	Stage E
How can I describe student's stage change (use Table 3)?	Slightly Regressed

Student C Information

Subject area: reading

Student's current grade level: 5

Student's previous grade level: 4

Student's current score on TAKS–Alt: 59

Student's previous score on TAKS–Alt: 68

Determining Growth for Student C

Will stage change information be reported (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage H
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	Stage J
How can I describe my student's stage change (use Table 3)?	Regressed

Student D Information

Subject area: science

Student's current grade level: 11

Student's current score on TAKS–Alt: 60

Student's previous grade level: 10

Student's previous score on TAKS–Alt: 49

Determining Growth for Student D

Will stage change information be reported (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage H
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	Stage F
How can I describe my student's stage change (use Table 3)?	Significantly Improved

Student E Information

Subject area: mathematics

Student's current grade level: 8

Student's previous grade level: 7

Student's current score on TAKS–Alt: 34

Student's previous score on TAKS–Alt: NRO

Determining Growth for Student E

Will stage change information be reported (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage D
What is my student's previous stage (use Section 1)?	NRO
How can I describe my student's stage change (use Section 1)?	No Information Available

Student F Information

Subject area: reading/ELA

Student's current grade level: 10

Student's previous grade level: 9

Student's current score on TAKS–Alt: 57

Student's previous score on TAKS–Alt: 41

Determining Growth for Student F

Will stage change information be reported (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage H
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	Stage E
How can I describe my student's stage change (use Table 3)?	Significantly Improved