

## TAKS–Alt Growth Measure

### *Application*

#### FAQs

#### **1. Why did Texas choose the TAKS–Alt Growth Measure?**

Texas chose to implement the TAKS–Alt growth measure because it provides relevant information for the population of students taking TAKS–Alt and meets the requirements that the United States Department of Education placed on growth measures used for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The Texas Projection Measure (TPM) is not used with TAKS–Alt because growth for this student population is defined in a fundamentally different way from growth for students taking other Texas assessments. The TAKS–Alt growth measure uses information about individual student performance in the past to help make a determination of whether or not the student is on track to succeed on future TAKS–Alt assessments. The model for the TAKS–Alt growth measure is based on the assumption that a student will continue to make progress at the same rate in future grades.

#### **2. What information can the TAKS–Alt growth measure provide to parents, teachers, and administrators?**

The TAKS–Alt growth measure provides information about:

- student score changes from year to year in the form of a measure of stage changes from a prior year to the current year.
  - Stage change information will be reported on the Confidential Student Report (CSR) and student data file for students in grades 4–11.
- whether the score changes were sufficient to indicate that, given the same rate of progress in the future, the student is on track to meet the performance standards in the next growth target grade (grade 5, 8, or 11).
  - On track information will be available only in the student data file for students in grades 4–10. Because the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Alternate assessments will replace TAKS–Alt assessments in 2012, on track designations for 2011 cannot be compared to future TAKS–Alt scores and the TAKS–Alt performance standards. As a result, on track designations for 2011 will not be reported on CSRs.

#### **3. How can the stage change information for TAKS–Alt be used?**

Stage change information can be used to describe the change in student score points from year to year by using the [Stage Change Table](#). This table provides information about whether student performance was maintained, improved, or regressed relative to performance in the prior year. Stage change information can also be used to determine if additional instructional intervention may be necessary for students.

#### **4. How can I determine a student's stage change for TAKS–Alt?**

Stage change information is included on the student's CSR (see TAKS–Alt [Reporting FAQs](#)). The stage change bar graph on the CSR shows the stage a student is in for the current year and the stage the student was in for a previous year. This information can be used to reference the [Stage Change Table](#), which provides a standardized way to interpret observed growth across years. Stage change is included on CSRs if students

are taking TAKS–Alt in a grade and subject area for which stage change information is available.