

## TAKS–Alt Growth Measure

### Reporting

#### FAQs

#### 1. In what grades and subjects will the TAKS–Alt Growth Measure be available in 2011?

The TAKS–Alt growth measure consists of two parts: stage change and on track designation.

**Stage Change:** In spring 2011, stage change information will be available on Confidential Student Reports (CSRs) and the student data files at grades 4–11 mathematics and reading/English language arts (ELA) and grades 10 and 11 science and social studies. To determine stage change, TAKS–Alt scores for two years must be available for tests administered no more than two years apart. As a result, stage change can only be determined if students have a score for the current grade and a previous grade. Stage change information is not available without two years of data (no more than two grades apart) within a subject area. Stage change is not reported for grade 3 subjects, grade 4 and 7 writing, grade 5 and 8 science, or grade 8 social studies. Table 1 lists the subjects and grades for which stage information will be available.

<b>TAKS–Alt Subject</b>	<b>Current Grade</b>
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. Stage change information will be available on CSRs and in the student data files.

**On Track:** In spring 2011, on track information will be available in the student data files only (not in CSRs) at grades 4–10. 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 available on CSRs.

## 2. What determines the stage a student is in for a specific year?

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 stage A being the lowest stage and stage J 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 shows the score-point range for each stage.

<b>Performance Category</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Score Points</b>
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. What information will be available for the TAKS-Alt Growth Measure on the CSR?

In 2011, stage change information will be available on the CSR for the TAKS-Alt growth measure. A student's stage change from a prior year to the current year is determined by representing the student's scores from the previous school year and the current school year in terms of the stage of performance achieved each year.

**Stage Change:** A bar graph (see the example below) showing the stage change from a prior grade to the current grade will be available on the student's CSR for grades 4-11 mathematics and reading/ELA and for grades 10 and 11 science and social studies. The bar graph represents the student's scores from a previous grade and the current grade in terms of stage achieved. The graph also indicates which stage corresponds to the state's two performance standards of Met Standard and Commended Performance. The graph shows the change (two stages in the example below) in the student's performance relative to the state's performance standards.

### TAKS–Alt Growth Measure—Stage Change

Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F*	G	H	I	J**
2009 Performance										
2010 Performance										

\*Met Standard  
 \*\*Commended Performance

#### 4. What materials are available to help districts explain the TAKS–Alt growth measure to parents?

There are several types of materials designed to assist districts with helping parents understand their students’ test results and the growth measure for TAKS–Alt. The first is a brochure titled *An Explanation of Test Results for 2011—TAKS–Alt* ([English version](#) and [Spanish version](#)). The brochure provides a brief summary of the TAKS–Alt program and explains a sample CSR. The second is a blackline master titled *A Guide to the TAKS–Alt Growth Measure* ([English version](#) and [Spanish version](#)). The blackline master provides an overview of the TAKS–Alt growth measure and provides answers to common questions parents may have about the growth measure.

#### 5. What TAKS–Alt growth measure information will be included in the district data files?

Stage change information for grades 4–11 and on track information for grades 4–10 will be included in the data file. Stage information will be reported for the prior year and the current year. The on track component will be included with indicators of 1=Yes, 0=No, Missing=Not Reported, or No Information Available.

#### 6. When will the TAKS–Alt growth measure be available on CSRs?

TAKS–Alt results will be available at the same time as the spring TAKS results, so school districts will receive TAKS–Alt CSRs with stage change information by May 25, 2011. Stage change information will be available on the CSRs in grades 4–11 mathematics and reading/ELA and in grades 10 and 11 science and social studies.

#### 7. In what situations will the TAKS–Alt growth measure not be reported?

For stage change to be reported, two years of data (no more than two grades apart) are needed. The two scores must be from the current grade and a previous grade in the same subject. For this reason, stage change information is not reported for any grade 3 subjects, grades 4 and 7 writing, grades 5 and 8 science, or grade 8 social studies.

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 CSR will

indicate this information in the stage change bar graph. For these students and others for whom no information is available from a previous year, the CSR will indicate “No Information Available” in the stage change bar graph for that subject in the prior year.

Since the on track determination requires stage change information for two years (no more than two years back), on track information is not available on the student data files for any grade 3 subjects, for any grade in writing, for grades 5 and 8 science, or for grade 8 social studies. In addition, on track information is not available for any grade 11 subjects since this is the final high school grade in which students are tested.