CLARIFICATION ON ELIGIBLE SCIENCE TEKS FOR STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for science were revised in 2009. The State Board of Education (SBOE) set the date for implementation in school districts as August 2010. As a result of this adoption and implementation schedule, beginning in spring 2011 statewide science assessments will be aligned to the 2009 revised science TEKS.

Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)

The spring 2011 TAKS science tests for grades 5, 8, 10, and 11 will assess eligible skills and concepts from the 2009 revised science TEKS. These eligible skills and concepts are those that are contained in both the previous and the revised versions of the TEKS and were previously tested. The spring 2011 TAKS science tests for grades 5 and 8 may also have field-test items that assess new science skills and concepts added to the 2009 TEKS. These field-test items will potentially be included on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). TAKS test items addressing skills or concepts from the 1997 science TEKS that have not been included in the 2009 revised science TEKS have been deleted from the TAKS science item banks. No new science skills or concepts will be added to the TEKS that are eligible for assessment for the remaining administrations of TAKS grades 10 and 11.

End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

The spring 2011 science EOC assessments for biology, chemistry, and physics will assess eligible skills and concepts from the 2009 revised science TEKS. These eligible skills and concepts are those that are contained in both the previous and the revised versions of the TEKS and were previously tested. The spring 2011 science EOC assessments may also have field-test items that assess new science skills and concepts added to the 2009 TEKS. These field-test items will potentially be included on STAAR. EOC assessment items addressing skills or concepts from the 1997 science TEKS that have not been included in the 2009 revised science TEKS have been deleted from the science EOC assessment item banks.

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)

STAAR assessments will be aligned to the 2009 revised science TEKS. The STAAR assessed curriculum documents on the STAAR resources webpage (http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/) identify the revised science TEKS that are eligible for the assessments.

Some examples of skills and concepts that were deleted, remain the same, or are new for the science TEKS are listed below.

Examples

Deleted Skill/Concept from Grade 5

- Previous TEKS 5.7D, observe and measure characteristic properties of substances that remain constant such as boiling points and melting points
- Revised TEKS 5.5B, identify the boiling and freezing/melting points of water on the Celsius scale

Deleted Skill/Concept from Grade 8

- Previous TEKS 8.7B, recognize that waves are generated and can travel through different media
- Not in new TEKS for middle school

Deleted Skill/Concept from High School

- Previous TEKS I.4D, investigate and demonstrate mechanical advantage and efficiency of various machines such as levers, motors, wheels and axles, pulleys, and ramps
- Not in new TEKS

Same Skill/Concept from Grade 5

- Previous TEKS 3.11C, identify the planets in our solar system and their position in relation to the Sun
- Revised TEKS 3.8D, identify the planets in Earth's solar system and their position in relation to the Sun

Same Skill/Concept from Grade 8

- Previous TEKS 6.6B, demonstrate that changes in motion can be measured and graphically represented
- Revised TEKS 6.8D, measure and graph changes in motion

Same Skill/Concept from High School

- Previous TEKS I.8C, investigate and identify the law of conservation of mass
- Revised TEKS I.7C, demonstrate that mass is conserved when substances undergo chemical change and that the number and kind of atoms are the same in the reactants and the products

Added Skill/Concept from Grade 5

- Previous TEKS 5.12C, identify the physical characteristics of the Earth and compare them to the physical characteristics of the moon
- Revised TEKS 5.8D, identify and compare the physical characteristics of the Sun, Earth, and Moon

Added Skill/Concept for Grade 8

- Revised TEKS 8.8C, explore how different wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum such as light and radio waves are used to gain information about distances and properties of components in the universe