

## **Attachment B: Detailed Description of the 2008–2009 Changes to TAKS–Alt and Module Content**

### **Standardized Essence Statements**

The essence statements for each grade and subject will now be state mandated, and the number of essence statements required has been reduced from six per subject area to four per subject area.

### **Standardized Assessment Tasks and Automated Scoring**

For each essence statement, teachers will no longer be required to write their own instructional activities. Teachers will now select one of the three standardized assessment tasks provided for each essence statement. The pre-determined criteria for the tasks are also now standardized. Teachers will still observe the student as he or she completes the assessment task and will enter data that will be used to calculate a score automatically for each student.

### **Assessment Tasks Documentation**

Documentation of the assessment-task observation will no longer be entered into the TAKS–Alt system. Pre-populated documentation forms will be provided to districts via the TEA website, and teachers will use these forms to document the observations of the standardized assessment tasks. These documentation forms will be retained in the district for a period of at least five years. There will be a TAKS–Alt audit in the late spring/early summer in 2009, and districts may be asked to return a sample of the documentation forms for inclusion in the audit study.

### **Interrater Reliability Study**

As part of the field test for TAKS–Alt in spring 2007, there was a small-scale interrater reliability study required by USDE. The interrater reliability study required a second rater for certain students selected as part of the study sample. This study will be replicated in the 2008–2009 school year, and the sample of student participants included in the study will be larger to provide additional reliability evidence required by USDE. Information regarding campus participation will be sent to districts as a part of the field- test notification letter that was dated August 20, 2009. Additional information will be sent to districts in December regarding interrater procedures as well as the list of students chosen to participate in the study. In order to minimize disruptions to districts' calendars and to reduce the amount of instructional time lost, a maximum of two students will be selected from elementary and middle school campuses and a maximum of three students will be selected per high school campus, and each student will be second rated on only one essence statement within one content area.

### **TAKS–Alt Training Modules**

Online TAKS–Alt training is **mandatory** beginning in 2008–2009. Mandatory TAKS–Alt training is part of Texas' agreement with USDE and provides additional assurance that the assessment is being administered uniformly across the state. Teachers who will

administer the TAKS–Alt assessment are required to complete all three training modules and the qualification activities for each module. District and campus testing coordinators should also review the training modules in order to familiarize themselves with the new TAKS–Alt assessment. Coordinators should monitor the progress of test administrators completing the training.

TEA recommends that coordinators and TAKS–Alt test administrators review the modules and complete the qualification activities in sequential order. The three modules, including key content, are detailed below.

**Module 1: Overview of the New TAKS–Alt Assessment**

- main features of TAKS–Alt
- role of the ARD committee
- TAKS–Alt participation requirements
- complexity levels of standardized assessment tasks
- new steps for administering TAKS–Alt

**Module 2: Implementing the TAKS–Alt Assessment**

- selecting the appropriate TAKS–Alt assessment task
- adding supports to individualize the assessment task
- conducting and recording the observation
- understanding cueing and prompting

**Module 3: The TAKS–Alt Online Instrument**

- dimensions of the revised TAKS–Alt rubric
- the process for generalization of skills
- entering data into the online instrument