

July 10, 2007

## **IMPORTANT 2007-2008 TESTING CALENDAR INFORMATION**

### **TO THE EDUCATOR ADDRESSED:**

This letter provides important updates to the 2007–2008 testing calendar. In response to the recent passage of Senate Bill 1031 during the 80<sup>th</sup> legislative session, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is required to change the testing schedule for the 2007–2008 school year to meet the recent legislative requirement to move the spring testing administrations later in the school year. A draft version of the updated 2007–2008 testing calendar was posted to the Student Assessment Division website for public review in June 2007. Comments received during this review period were taken into consideration as the testing calendar was finalized.

During the public review period, a total of 367 comments were submitted to the TEA regarding the 2007–2008 draft calendar. Based on comments from the field, the decision was made to allow the second and third administrations of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) mathematics tests at grades 5 and 8 as well as the third administration of the TAKS reading tests at grades 3, 5, and 8 to occur one week earlier than the dates published on the June draft calendar. In response to requests to reduce the amount of field testing as much as possible without endangering the integrity of the testing program, the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) stand-alone field test that was scheduled for March 2008 has been eliminated.

Below is a summary of the revised test dates:

- the TELPAS field tests scheduled during the testing window of March 10–April 11, 2008, have been eliminated.
- the TELPAS testing window has been reduced from five weeks to four weeks and will take place from March 17–April 11, 2008.
- the Spanish TAKS field tests for grades 5 and 6 have been moved one week to coincide with the start of the TELPAS window. The field tests are now scheduled for March 17–28, 2008.
- the May mathematics retests at grades 5 and 8 have been moved from May 20 to May 13, 2008.
- the July mathematics retests at grades 5 and 8 have been moved from July 8 to July 1, 2008.
- the July reading retests at grades 3, 5, and 8 have been moved from July 9 to July 2, 2008.

The TEA is aware that the TAKS social studies tests scheduled for May 2, 2008, conflict with several University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities. Although it was not possible to shift the dates statewide to accommodate this conflict, TEA will work with school districts individually to reschedule the TAKS social studies tests from Friday, May 2 to Monday, April 28, for those students participating in UIL events.

The final 2007-2008 testing calendar can be accessed on the Student Assessment Division website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/>. Please direct personnel to replace all copies of the previous version of the 2007–2008 calendar with this revised version.

TEA has attempted to resolve as many calendar conflicts as possible. However, given that 2007-2008 school calendars were set a number of months earlier, some conflicts are inevitable. If you continue to experience difficulties with your local calendar or if you have any questions about the 2007-2008 assessment calendar, please contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Thank you for your assistance in helping to ensure that the state assessment calendar not only meets state and federal requirements but also minimizes conflicts with local schedules.

Assessment Contact Information

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