

Attachment B: Steps Taken to Reduce Field-Testing Requirements

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recognizes the challenges districts and campuses face with regard to time and resources when they are asked to participate in stand-alone field tests. For this reason we continue to seek ways to keep district field testing to a minimum while maintaining the high quality of the student assessment program.

The following is a summary of the changes that have been instituted with regard to stand-alone field tests in the 2007–2008 school year so that fewer students, and therefore districts, are required to participate in the field-testing process. Many of these changes are a direct response to recommendations made by the Student Assessment Advisory Committee.

The table below shows the total number of students, campuses, and districts sampled for TAKS and EOC stand-alone field tests in 2007 and in 2008. In general, the number of students and campuses sampled for TAKS in 2008 was reduced by approximately **50%** from the number sampled in 2007. Although a similar number of campuses and districts will participate in the EOC field tests in 2008, fewer students per campus will participate. Sample sizes will be periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to be representative and provide reliable statistical information about the validity and fairness of test questions.

Statewide Participation Summary for 2007 and 2008 TAKS and EOC Stand-Alone Field Tests

	Students				Campuses				Districts			
	2007		2008		2007		2008		2007		2008	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Grade 4 Writing (English)	90508	32%	46387	16%	1192	33%	581	16%	459	50%	256	28%
Grade 7 Writing	76517	27%	44752	16%	418	28%	247	17%	318	36%	191	22%
Grade 9 Reading	89930	27%	39992	12%	359	29%	180	15%	302	33%	158	17%
Grade 10 ELA	90184	32%	58149	21%	408	35%	293	25%	335	37%	244	27%
Grade 11 ELA	130413	54%	68797	28%	695	61%	361	32%	538	61%	295	34%
Total TAKS	477552	33%	258077	18%	2350	38%	1278	21%	833	65%	586	46%
Total EOC	149020	23%	73027	14%	695	38%	676	39%	538	50%	513	48%

Note: These data reflect information available at the time of sampling. Percentages are based on eligible students, campuses, and districts.

This table reflects the following specific changes.

TAKS Stand-Alone Field Tests for Grades 4 and 7 Writing, Grade 9 Reading, and Grade 10 and Exit Level English Language Arts (ELA)

- Reduced the sample size for TAKS English field-test forms.
- Reduced the number of forms for TAKS grade 9 reading, grade 10 ELA, and exit level ELA.
- Selected campuses for TAKS stand-alone field testing only after removing campuses that were scheduled not to participate this year because of the frequency of their past participation.

- Selected campuses for TAKS stand-alone field testing at no more than three grade levels.
- Planned the transition to an alternate year field-test schedule for the TAKS assessments; for example, in the 2008–2009 school year, we anticipate that there will be no TAKS stand-alone field tests.

EOC Chemistry and U.S. History Field Tests

- Reduced the sample size for EOC forms.
- Reduced the maximum number of students participating in an EOC field test at any campus from 300 to 100.
- Selected campuses for EOC stand-alone field testing only after removing campuses that were scheduled not to participate this year because of the frequency of their past participation.

TELPAS Stand-Alone Field Tests

- Identified a method for embedding the TELPAS reading field-test items in operational assessments so that a stand-alone online field test in 2007–2008 is not necessary. The test release schedule in Senate Bill 1031 made this change possible.