

ACTION REQUIRED

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Revised Testing Calendars for 2007–2008 and 2008–2009

This letter provides important updates to the 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 testing calendars. A draft version of the updated 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 testing calendars was posted to the Student Assessment Division website for public review in September 2006, and again in November 2006, and comments received during those review periods were taken into consideration when the testing calendars were finalized. In addition, the revised dates have been reviewed by the University Interscholastic League to help ensure that the changes do not conflict with other events.

Although fewer than 140 comments were received about the draft calendars in November, the most frequently received request was to move the dates for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) administrations later in the school year. However, after consideration of the implications of moving the TAKS testing dates, the decision was made to leave the dates as originally published.

To the extent possible, shifts in assessment dates and testing windows were determined to provide the least disruptive schedule for districts. The grades and subjects for each assessment program specified are in accordance with state and federal regulations. Please note that several assessment decisions are pending final regulations and review by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), and dates on the calendars are subject to change.

Updates to the 2007 – 2008 calendar:

- The testing window for the national comparative data study required by state law has been added to the calendar. The testing window will begin on October 8, 2007, and end on November 2, 2007. The study encompasses a statewide representative sample of school districts. Although a four-week window has been designated for this activity, the actual administration of the assessment should represent no more than two or three days of testing.
- The January 2008 TAKS field testing has been extended by one week. The dates are now January 21, 2008–February 8, 2008. **Note that although a multi-week window has been designated for each field test activity in the testing calendar, the actual administration of each field test should represent no more than one day of testing.**

- A Linguistically Accommodated Test (LAT) in science will be provided for the first time in the 2007-2008 school year for grades 5, 8, and 10. The LAT science test will be administered on April 23, 2008.
- The end-of-course (EOC) field testing window has been extended by one week and moved to May 5, 2008–May 23, 2008.
- The EOC testing window has been extended by one week and moved to May 12, 2008–May 30, 2008 to fall closer to the end of the semester.
- The June Student Success Initiative (SSI) grade level retests have been moved back one week to July 1, 2008–July 2, 2008 to accommodate the later summer school start.

Updates to the 2008 – 2009 calendar:

- The January 2009 TAKS field testing has been extended by one week. The dates are now January 20, 2009–February 6, 2009.
- The LAT science test for grades 5, 8, and 10 will be administered on April 22, 2009.
- The EOC field testing window has been extended by one week to April 27, 2009–May 15, 2009.
- The EOC testing window has been moved back one week to May 11, 2009–May 29, 2009.
- The June SSI grade level retests has been moved back one week to June 30, 2009 and July 1, 2009.

The revised calendars can also be accessed on the Student Assessment Division website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/>. Please direct all personnel to replace any copies of the previous versions of the 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 testing calendars with these revised versions. If you have any questions about the 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 meets state and federal requirements and also minimizes conflicts with local schedules.

Sincerely,

Shirley J. Neeley