ACTION OPTIONAL

November 21, 2005

TO THE INDIVIDUAL/ORGANIZATION ADDRESSED:

In accordance with the Texas Education Code, §39.033, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will make available for administration to private and home schools the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests for Grades 3-10 and Exit Level, at a per-student cost that does not exceed the cost of administering the same test to a Texas public school student.

Private and home schools may participate in the TAKS assessment program by administering the secure spring 2006 TAKS tests, the tests administered from spring 2005 through summer 2005 that have been released to the public, or both.

Each private and home school choosing to administer the secure spring 2006 TAKS tests will be required to sign an agreement with the agency in which it agrees to maintain security and confidentiality of the test instruments, test all eligible students in all subjects at a particular grade level, follow all procedures specified in the applicable test administration materials, provide to the Commissioner of Education the information listed in the Texas Education Code, §39.051(b), and reimburse the agency for the cost of the assessment.

Private and home schools interested in participating in the spring 2006 assessment may obtain a copy of the agreement packet by contacting Pearson Educational Measurement in writing at 2201 Donley Drive, Austin, Texas 78758, or by phone at (512) 835-4833, **no later than January 30, 2006**. Released tests also may be ordered by contacting Pearson Educational Measurement or may be downloaded free of charge from the TEA website at www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment. There is no deadline for ordering released tests.

TEA is moving toward online notification of this testing opportunity. In the future, the notification of this testing opportunity will be posted on the TEA website and will not be mailed to you. Those interested in participating should check the website for ordering deadlines and online registration. Additional information may be obtained from Jane Lair, Pearson Educational Measurement, at (512) 835-4833.

Sincerely,

Lisa Chandler
Director, Student Assessment