

ACTION REQUIRED

May 15, 2006

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: 2006 Fall Study for the Texas Student Assessment Program

As announced in the *2006-2007 Testing Schedule for the Texas Student Assessment Program*, fall studies will be conducted between September 11 and September 22, 2006. This letter is to inform you of the fall studies that will take place so that planning for them may occur prior to the start of school this fall.

Information from the 2006 fall studies will be used to gather data needed to appropriately align the levels of the Reading Proficiency Tests in English II (RPTE II) with the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) reading expectations, and to further the understanding of comparability and preparedness for grade 10 online assessment. Below is specific information about the fall studies.

Reading Proficiency Tests in English II

The purpose of this study is to appropriately align RPTE II with TAKS reading expectations. This information will be critical as the testing program transitions from RPTE to RPTE II, which will be fully implemented in spring 2008. The fall study will include students in grades 3-12, and both limited English proficient (LEP) students and non-LEP students will participate in the study. Districts will be notified by August 18, 2006, if students in their district have been selected to participate.

Grade 10 TAKS English Language Arts

The purpose of this administration is to capture paper and online comparability data for the TAKS English Language Arts (ELA) assessment under conditions that mirror live test administrations. Information from this study will be used to develop a fuller understanding of the impact of administering tests online. Students in grade 11 will be administered a grade 10 TAKS ELA test, and the students will be randomly assigned to test either online or on paper from selected districts. Students and test administrators will be asked to submit a short survey to provide additional information regarding the testing

experience. Districts that have previously participated in an online assessment at the high school level will be sampled for this important research with approximately 3000 students participating statewide.

Research conducted through these fall studies will assist in ensuring that test items provide valid and reliable assessments of student performance. Therefore, the cooperation of districts and campuses is crucial to the data-collection process. School personnel are encouraged to help motivate students to take participation in the fall study seriously.

Additional details concerning both of the fall studies will be sent to districts that have been selected for the RPTE II or the grade 10 online study. You can expect to receive this information in mid-August. If you have questions concerning the fall studies, please contact the Student Assessment Division of the Texas Education Agency at 512-463-9356.

Sincerely,

Lisa Chandler
Director, Student Assessment

cc: District Test Coordinators
Education Service Center Executive Directors
Education Service Center Test Coordinators