ACTION REQUIRED

June 13, 2006

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

As requested by many superintendents, Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff reviewed several options for field testing and moved selected field tests out of the month of January to minimize loss of instructional time before testing. However, several of you voiced concern about the change moving certain field tests into the primary testing week in April and requested that everyone take one more look at the calendar.

As a result of a survey conducted through the education service centers, it is apparent that the majority of you would prefer that the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) field tests for grades 4 and 7 writing and grade 9 reading be moved back into January during the same testing window as the grades 10 and exit level English language arts field tests. In addition, we were asked to extend the testing window for the Biology and Geometry end-of-course field tests, so we have added a week to the window. This change will allow four weeks during which the field tests can be scheduled locally. A revised calendar for 2006-2007 that reflects these changes is available on the TEA website.

I know that many of you have already adopted your calendars for the coming school year, and I hope you understand that these changes have been made at the request of practitioners like yourselves.

If you have any questions about the attached calendar, please contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Sincerely,

Shirley J. Neeley

cc: District Test Coordinators
Education Service Center Executive Directors