



TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

1701 North Congress Ave.* Austin, Texas 78701-1494 * 512/463-9734 * FAX: 512/463-9838 * <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

Shirley J. Neeley, Ed.D.
Commissioner

ACTION REQUIRED

August 3, 2004

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: TAKS Exit Level Personalized Study Guides

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is pleased to introduce the Personalized Study Guide, a customized tool to assist students who do not perform satisfactorily on any subject-area test of the exit level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). This study guide will be an additional resource for students to inform them of their individual needs and provide resources to help them focus on specific areas in which improvement is needed. While the Personalized Study Guide will be customized for each student based on his or her test scores, it is designed to be used in conjunction with the TAKS study guides currently distributed by TEA. The Personalized Study Guide will be produced and shipped to districts after each exit level TAKS administration.

The Personalized Study Guide is customized for each student and contains the following information:

- An overview and explanation of the student's individual TAKS results by subject area and by objective within each subject area
- A personal study planner to help the student get organized
- Customized study sections for each subject area of the TAKS in which the student did not meet the passing standard
- A tutor guide to enable teachers, tutors, and parents to help the student work through the Personalized Study Guide

TEA has contracted with the Grow Network to produce the Personalized Study Guides. The first shipment of the guides will arrive in districts by August 31, 2004, and should be distributed to every student who was not successful on any portion of the exit level TAKS as of August 2004. The second shipment will arrive in January 2005 for distribution to students who were not successful on any portion of the exit level TAKS as of December 2004. The shipments will include flyers for parents and teachers that discuss the purpose and contents of the study guides and offer options for using them. District coordinators will receive a letter informing them about the arrival of the study guides and the distribution process.

"Good, Better, Best-never let it rest-until your good is better-and your better is BEST!"

Online versions of the study guides will also be available. In August 2004, students and educators will be able to download a complete version of the study guide. Although this version will not be customized for individual students, it will contain sample items and study tips for each TAKS objective by subject-area test. In January 2005, personalized versions of the online study guides will be available so that students can download their customized guide.

The Personalized Study Guide is part of an ongoing effort to provide additional resources for students who are working to strengthen their skills. It is our hope that students, educators, and parents will find this new study guide helpful in preparing students for success on the exit level TAKS.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536 or studenta@tea.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley J. Neeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "S".

Shirley J. Neeley, Ed. D.

cc: District Coordinator