



TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

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Shirley J. Neeley, Ed.D.
Commissioner

ACTION REQUIRED

August 6, 2004

TO THE DISTRICT TESTING COORDINATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Fall Study for the Texas Student Assessment Program

As announced in the *Test Schedule for the Texas Student Assessment Program, 2004-2005 School Year*, which was sent to districts March 4, 2004, a fall study will be conducted September 13 to 24, 2004. Each district may develop a local schedule to administer the study during the designated testing window. Data from this fall study will be used to ascertain the relationship of the new State-Developed Alternative Assessment II (SDAA II) to the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Your district has been designated to participate in this essential stage of test development. The campuses chosen from your district are listed on the attachment to this letter. This letter also includes specific information about groups participating in the study.

The fall study will be administered to all eligible students in grades 5 through 11. On each campus selected, all eligible students at the designated grade level will participate in a selected subject area study. For example, all eligible 6th graders on a selected campus may be administered the reading fall study, while all eligible 8th graders may be administered the mathematics fall study.

The fall study requires that each form assess curriculum that students have previously learned. This means that students will answer questions based on material they learned in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. The following examples illustrate this requirement:

- Eligible students in 9th grade selected for a reading fall study will answer 7th and 8th grade reading questions.
- Student responses from the fall study administered to 11th graders will provide essential performance data on items assessing the 9th and 10th grade curriculum.
- Third- and fourth-graders will be excluded from the fall study because these students have not yet completed the curriculum addressed in this study.

For the fall study, the eligibility status of limited English proficient (LEP) students and students served through special education should be based on their spring 2004 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test status. These students should participate in the fall study only if they took TAKS in spring 2004. Note that meetings of language proficiency assessment committees (LPACs) or admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committees to determine test eligibility are not necessary since it is the student's test status from last spring that determines eligibility for this fall's study.

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

Research conducted through this fall study will assist in ensuring that test items are a valid and reliable assessment 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.

There is no time limit to the fall study; some portions will take longer than others. Once a student begins taking a fall study test, however, the student should complete that test the same day.

The following examples illustrate campus administrations.

Sample Campus Administration Chart

<u>Campus</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Subject</u>
KP Jones HS	9	Mathematics
	11	English Language Arts
Longfellow Middle	6	Reading
	8	Mathematics
Highland EL	5	Mathematics

1. All eligible 9th graders at KP Jones High School will take the mathematics fall study. All eligible 11th graders will take the English Language Arts fall study.
2. At Longfellow Middle School, eligible 6th graders will take the reading fall study. Eligible 8th graders will take the mathematics fall study.
3. At Highland Elementary, eligible 5th graders will take the mathematics fall study.

Precoded labels, as well as other secure and nonsecure materials for the fall study, will be shipped the week of September 7. These materials will include detailed information about student eligibility and other aspects of the fall study administration. To allow sufficient time to prepare the data, the scorable materials must be returned to Pearson Educational Measurement no later than September 30, 2004.

Please note that, because this is a sample and part of a study, individual results for students, campuses, and districts will not be available.

If you have any questions about the selection process or desire additional information concerning the 2004 fall study, please call the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536. We appreciate your support of these important activities.

Sincerely,



Lisa Chandler
Director, Student Assessment