

August 9, 2004

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Information Booklets for TAKS, SDAA II, & RPTE

The Student Assessment Division announces an update concerning Information Booklets for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), the State-Developed Alternative Assessment II (SDAA II), and the Reading Proficiency Tests in English (RPTE) testing programs.

- ❑ TAKS: All of the TAKS Information Booklets have been revised. The booklets were originally published in January 2002, before the first TAKS field test. Now, after several years of field tests and live administrations, we are able to provide an even more comprehensive picture of the testing program. We have clarified some of the existing material and, in some cases, provided new sample items and/or more explanations of certain item types. However, it is important to remember that these clarifications do not signify any change in the TAKS testing program. The objectives and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) student expectations assessed on TAKS remain unchanged.

Important note: The revised TAKS Information Booklets are web-based only; printed copies will not be shipped to districts. The booklets will be posted on our website as they are completed. All booklets will be posted by the end of August.

- ❑ SDAA II: To provide districts with a better understanding of this updated testing program and its connection to the TEKS and to classroom teaching, new SDAA II Information Booklets have been developed: one for mathematics, one for writing, and one for reading. These booklets will be available for downloading on our website in early August. In addition, printed copies of the SDAA II Information Booklets will be shipped to districts in mid-September.
- ❑ RPTE: Following the implementation of the TAKS program, RPTE test selections and items were developed to more closely reflect the formats used on the TAKS reading tests. The RPTE Educator's Guide to TEKS-Based Assessment has been revised to show examples of these test formats as well as provide information about upcoming plans for this assessment program. These booklets will be posted on our website by early fall.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Chandler,
Director, Student Assessment

cc: District Testing Coordinator