ACTION REQUIRED

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Updates to 2004-2005 Testing Calendar

This letter provides important updates to the current 2004-2005 Student Assessment Division Testing Calendar.

During the 2003-2004 school year, at the request of district superintendents, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) implemented a make-up testing policy for those grade levels and subject areas that are included in the calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*. In a letter dated November 14, 2003, Chief Deputy Commissioner Robert Scott explained this policy and stated that it would be reviewed and evaluated after the spring 2004 test administration. Based on TEA's review of the impact of the make-up testing option, the policy will be continued for the 2004-2005 school year for those grade levels and subject areas included in the calculation of AYP.

Updates on the grade levels and subject areas eligible for make-up testing, as well as other important calendar changes, are noted below.

1. A make-up session for the State-Developed Alternative Assessment (SDAA) II Grade 10 English Language Arts assessment administered on Wednesday, February 23, 2005, may be given only on Thursday, February 24, 2005.

2. The United States Department of Education has approved a revision in the calculation of AYP to include both the first **and second** administrations of Grade 3 reading and Grade 5 reading and mathematics. Therefore, make-up testing after the second administrations of these tests will now be added.

    - Make-up sessions for the Grade 3 and Grade 5 reading retests (English and Spanish versions) scheduled to be administered on Wednesday, April 20, 2005, must be completed by Saturday, April 23, 2005.

    - Make-up sessions for the Grade 5 mathematics retest (English and Spanish versions) scheduled to be administered on Tuesday, May 17, 2005, must be completed by Thursday, May 19, 2005.

3. According to the *No Child Left Behind Act*, states must administer a middle school science assessment no later than the 2007-2008 school year. In 2004-2005, a Grade 8 Middle School Science field test will be administered on Monday, April 18, 2005. This field test is scheduled for Monday of the spring testing week to allow as much time as possible at the end of the week for make-up testing in other subjects.

4. If an alternate assessment for the third administration of the Grade 3 reading, Grade 5 reading, or Grade 5 mathematics test is an option selected by the Grade Placement Committee to fulfill Student Success Initiative requirements, a 3-week testing window will begin on June 20, 2005, and end on July 8, 2005.

5. The testing window for the National Comparative Data Study has been shortened in response to district feedback. The new testing window will begin on October 11, 2004, and end on November 5, 2004.

6. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) state assessment in reading, mathematics, and science will be administered to students in grades 4 and 8 during a testing window of January 24 – February 18 and February 28 – March 4, 2005.

7. In the 2004-2005 calendar issued last spring, a number of activities and dates related to the assessment of limited English proficient (LEP) students were still in the planning stages. Districts were informed that they would receive specifics about these activities at a later date. The activities and dates, which are now finalized, are summarized below:

   - In the January 18 – February 1, 2005, field test window, Grade 3 Spanish reading will be field-tested in addition to Grade 4 Spanish writing.

   - Within the March 21 – April 8, 2005, window, the week of March 21-25 will be designated for the field testing of Grades 5 and 6 Spanish reading and mathematics.

   - Assessment results from the new Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS), which includes RPTE and Observation Protocols, will arrive in districts between April 29 and May 6, 2005.

The 2004-2005 testing calendar posted on the Student Assessment Division website has been revised to reflect these changes. Please direct all personnel to replace any copies of the previous version with this revised 2004-2005 calendar.

We know that this testing calendar outlines many activities, including numerous field tests. These field tests are mandated by the Texas Education Code as part of the test development process and are a critical step toward ensuring that each test will provide a valid and reliable assessment of students' skills. As we strive to create the most reliable, valid, and equitable assessments possible, we are well aware of the crucial contributions of Texas educators and students. We appreciate the time that your districts give toward stressing the importance of field testing and encouraging school and district staff to assist us in motivating students to put forth their best efforts on these tests.

If you have any questions regarding the changes outlined in this letter, please contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Sincerely,

Shirley J. Neeley, Ed.D.

cc: District Test Coordinator, ESC Executive Director and Test Coordinator

2004–2005 Student Assessment Calendar *revised 9-04*

2004

Test Date(s)	TAKS	SDAA II	Report Date(s)*	TAAS	Report Date(s)*
Testing Window: Sept 13 –Sept 24	**FALL STUDY (selected sample)**		**None**		
Testing Window: Oct 11 – Nov 5	**NATIONAL COMPARATIVE DATA STUDY (selected sample)**		**None**		
Oct 19 (Tue)	***Exit Level English Language Arts (retest)***		**Dec 1-3, 2004**	***Oct 19 Exit Level Writing (retest)***	**Dec 1-3, 2004**
20 (Wed)	***Exit Level Mathematics (retest)***		**Dec 1-3, 2004**	***Oct 20 Exit Level Mathematics (retest)***	**Dec 1-3, 2004**
21 (Thurs)	***Exit Level Social Studies (retest)***		**Dec 1-3, 2004**		
22 (Fri)	***Exit Level Science (retest)***		**Dec 1-3, 2004**	***Oct 21 Exit Level Reading (retest)***	**Dec 1-3, 2004**
Dec 2 (Thurs)	**Education Service Center (ESC) Training in Austin**				

2005

Completed by Jan 14 (Fri)	**Training for school district testing personnel by ESCs**				
Testing Window: Jan 18 – Feb 1	**<u>TAKS Field Tests</u>:** **Grade 4 Writing** **Grade 4 Spanish Writing** **Grade 7 Writing** **Grade 9 Reading** **Grade 10 English Language Arts** **Exit Level English Language Arts**	**<u>SDAA II Field Tests</u>:** **Grade 4 Writing** **Grade 7 Writing** **Grade 10 English Language Arts** **Grades 3–9 Reading** **Grades 3–10 Mathematics**	**None**		
	Spanish Field Tests – Grade 3 Reading and Grade 4 Writing		**None**		
Testing Window: Jan 24 – Feb 18 Feb 28 - Mar 4	**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)**		**None**		

* Districts must notify students and parents of test results according to the schedule outlined in the Coordinator Manual.

2004–2005 Student Assessment Calendar *revised 9-04*

2005

Test Date(s)	TAKS	SDAA II	Report Date(s)*	TAAS	Report Date(s)*
Feb 22 (Tues)	**Grade 4 Writing** **Grade 4 Spanish Writing** **Grade 7 Writing** **Grade 9 Reading** **Grade 10 English Language Arts** **Exit Level English Language Arts** ***Exit Level English Language Arts (retest)***	**Grade 4 Writing ♦** **Grade 7 Writing ♦**	**May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **Apr 13-15, 2005**	***Exit Level Writing (retest)***	**Apr 13-15, 2005**
Feb 23 (Wed)	**Grade 3 Reading** **Grade 3 Spanish Reading** **Grade 5 Reading** **Grade 5 Spanish Reading** ***Exit Level Mathematics (retest)***	 **Grade 9 Reading ♦♦** **Grade 10 English Language Arts ♦♦♦**	**Mar 11, 2005**** **Mar 11, 2005**** **Mar 11, 2005**** **Mar 11, 2005**** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **Apr 13-15, 2005**	***Exit Level Mathematics (retest)***	**Apr 13-15, 2005**
Feb 24 (Thurs)	***Exit Level Social Studies (retest)*** **Make-up session for Grade 10 ELA**	 **Make-up session for Grade 10 ELA**	**Apr 13-15, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005**	***Exit Level Reading (retest)***	**Apr 13-15, 2005**
Feb 25 (Fri)	***Exit Level Science (retest)***		**Apr 13-15, 2005**		
Completed by Feb 26 (Sat)	**All make-up sessions for tests scheduled to be administered on February 23, 2005, and included in the calculation of AYP must be completed by this date. These tests include TAKS Grades 3 & 5 reading (English and Spanish).**				

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** 10 working days after the testing contractor receives the scorable materials

♦ Enrolled Grade 4 students may take instructionl level K/1, 2, or 3/4. Enrolled Grade 7 students may take instructional level K/1, 2, 3/4, 5, or 6/7.

♦♦ Enrolled Grade 9 students who are taking an instructional level K-8 reading assessment will test on April 20, 2005. Enrolled Grade 9 students will test on February 23, 2005, **only** if they are taking the instructional level 9 reading test.

♦♦♦ Enrolled Grade 10 students must take the instructional level 10 English language arts (ELA) test **or** both a writing and reading test at a lower instructional level. Enrolled Grade 10 students who are taking the K/1, 2, 3/4, 5, 6/7, or 8/9 writing assessment will test on February 22, 2005. Enrolled Grade 10 students will test on February 23, 2005, **only** if they are taking the instructional level 9 reading assessment or the instructional level 10 ELA assessment. Enrolled Grade 10 students who are taking an instructional level K-8 reading assessment will test on April 20, 2005.

2004–2005 Student Assessment Calendar *revised 9-04*

2005

Test Date(s)	TAKS	SDAA II	Report Date(s)*	TAAS	Report Date(s)*
Testing Window: **Mar 21 – Apr 8** **Mar 21-25**	**READING PROFICIENCY TESTS IN ENGLISH (RPTE) (includes make-up sessions)** **English Language Proficiency Observation Protocols** **LEP Students Field Tests – Grades 5 and 6 Spanish Reading and Mathematics**		**Apr 29 – May 6, 2005** **Apr 29 – May 6, 2005** **None**		
Apr 5 (Tues)	**Grade 5 Mathematics** **Grade 5 Spanish Mathematics**		**April 21, 2005**** **April 21, 2005****		
Completed by April 8 (Fri)	**All make-up sessions for tests scheduled to be administered on April 5, 2005, and included in the calculation of AYP must be completed by this date.**				
Apr 18 (Mon)	**Grade 8 Science field test**		**None**		
Apr 19 (Tues)	**Grades 3–4 Mathematics** **Grades 3–4 Spanish Mathematics** **Grades 6–8 and 10 Mathematics** **Grade 6 Spanish Mathematics** ***Exit Level English Language Arts (retest for graduating seniors only)***	**Grades 3–10 Mathematics**	**May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 9-11, 2005**	***Exit Level Writing (retest)***	**May 9-11, 2005**
Apr 20 (Wed)	**Grades 4 Reading** **Grades 4 Spanish Reading** **Grades 6-8 Reading** **Grade 6 Spanish Reading** **Exit Level Mathematics** ***Grade 3 Reading (retest)*** ***Grade 3 Spanish Reading (retest)*** ***Grade 5 Reading (retest)*** ***Grade 5 Spanish Reading (retest)*** ***Exit Level Mathematics (retest for graduating seniors only)***	**Grades 3–8 Reading**	**May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005**** **May 6-13, 2005**** **May 6-13, 2005**** **May 6-13, 2005**** **May 9-11, 2005**	***Exit Level Mathematics (retest)***	**May 9-11, 2005**

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2004–2005 Student Assessment Calendar *revised 9-04*

2005					
Test Date(s)	**TAKS**	**SDAA II**	**Report Date(s)***	**TAAS**	**Report Date(s)***
Apr 21 (Thurs)	**Grade 5 Science** **Grade 5 Spanish Science** **Grade 8 Social Studies** **Grade 9 Mathematics** **Grade 10 Social Studies** **Exit Level Social Studies** ***Exit Level Social Studies (retest for graduating seniors only)***		**May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 9-11, 2005**	***Exit Level Reading (retest)***	**May 9-11, 2005**
Apr 22 (Fri)	**Grade 10 Science** **Exit Level Science** ***Exit Level Science (retest for graduating seniors only)***		**May 6-13, 2005** **May 6-13, 2005** **May 9-11, 2005**		
Completed by Apr 23 (Sat)	**All make-up sessions for tests (English and Spanish versions) scheduled to be administered on April 19-20, 2005, and included in the calculation of AYP must be completed by this date. This includes Grades 3-8 mathematics, Grades 4-8 reading, Grade 3 and Grade 5 reading retests, and Grade 10 mathematics.**				
May 17 (Tues)	***Grade 5 Mathematics (retest)*** ***Grade 5 Spanish Mathematics (retest)***		**June 2, 2005**** **June 2, 2005****		
May 19 (Thurs)	**All make-up sessions for the Grade 5 mathematics retest (English and Spanish versions) scheduled to be administered on Tuesday, May 17, 2005, must be completed by this date.**				

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2004–2005 Student Assessment Calendar *revised 9-04*

2005					
Test Date(s)	**TAKS**	**SDAA II**	**Report Date(s)***	**TAAS**	**Report Date(s)***
June 28 (Tues)	***Grade 5 Mathematics (retest)*** ***Grade 5 Spanish Mathematics (retest)***		**July 15, 2005**** **July 15, 2005****		
June 29 (Wed)	***Grade 3 Reading (retest)*** ***Grade 3 Spanish Reading (retest)*** ***Grade 5 Reading (retest)*** ***Grade 5 Spanish Reading (retest)***		**July 15, 2005**** **July 15, 2005**** **July 15, 2005**** **July 15, 2005****		
Testing Window: **June 20 – July 8**	***Grade 3 Reading Alternate Assessment*** ***Grade 5 Reading Alternate Assessment*** ***Grade 5 Mathematics Alternate Assessment***		**None**		
July 12 (Tues)	***Exit Level English Language Arts (retest)***		**Aug 10-12, 2005**	***Exit Level Writing (retest)***	**Aug 10-12, 2005**
July 13 (Wed)	***Exit Level Mathematics (retest)***		**Aug 10-12, 2005**	***Exit Level Mathematics (retest)***	**Aug 10-12, 2005**
July 14 (Thurs)	***Exit Level Social Studies (retest)***		**Aug 10-12, 2005**	***Exit Level Reading (retest)***	**Aug 10-12, 2005**
July 15 (Fri)	***Exit Level Science (retest)***		**Aug 10-12, 2005**		

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