

ACTION OPTIONAL

March 22, 2005

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Revised Policy for Exit Level Testing in April 2005

This letter is intended to clarify a number of issues related to the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) and Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) exit level retests in April 2005.

First, we have revised our policy regarding who is eligible to take an April retest. As you know, in the past the April retest was limited to graduating seniors only. Beginning with the test administration this April, all students who were eligible to take a TAKS retest in February 2005 are eligible to take any section of the TAKS assessment on which they have not yet met the passing standard. Similarly, all students for whom TAAS is a graduation requirement are eligible to take any section of TAAS on which they have not yet met minimum expectations.

In addition, for students who are taking the April TAKS exit level retest and do not have a grade 10 TAKS record, districts will have the option to indicate in the agency use box on the answer document the year in which a student first entered grade 10. Establishing this record is critical since the TAKS exit level passing standard in place at the time a student begins grade 10 is the standard that is maintained throughout the student's high school career. Therefore, this option will ensure that the correct passing standard can be applied to these students.

The following instructions explain how to record the necessary information.

- To indicate that a student first entered grade 10 during the 2002-2003 school year, a "0" must be gridded in column "D" and a "3" must be gridded in column "E" of the Agency Use field on the TAKS exit level retest answer document.
- To indicate that a student first entered grade 10 during the 2003-2004 school year, a "0" must be gridded in column "D" and a "4" must be gridded in column "E" of the Agency Use field on the exit level retest answer document.

If you have additional questions regarding the April 2005 administrations of the TAKS or TAAS tests, you may contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Sincerely,

Lisa Chandler
Director, Student Assessment

cc: District Testing Coordinator

