

October 14, 2003

TO THE DISTRICT TEST COORDINATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: On-line Survey regarding Group-Administered Achievement Tests

Section 39.032 of the Texas Education Code includes a requirement that a company or organization that grades a group-administered achievement test report the results by campus and district to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Proposed amendments to 19 TAC §101.101, Group-Administered Tests, which were discussed for second reading and final adoption during the State Board of Education (SBOE) Committee on Instruction meeting in September, require a testing company to provide results for all district-commissioned, group-administered tests, not just norm-referenced tests, and to assure that the same form of the testing instrument is not repeated for more than three years. During the September meeting, the Committee on Instruction voted to defer approval until November and asked that TEA gather additional information related to the proposed amendments and report back to the committee in November.

The Student Assessment Division has developed an on-line survey to gather information from each school district and charter school concerning their use of norm-referenced or criterion-referenced group-administered achievement tests administered during the 2002-2003 school year. This information will be included in a report compiled by TEA for the November 2003 SBOE meeting.

The survey is located on the Student Assessment Division's web site at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment>. A link to the on-line survey can be found in the "What's New" box. Please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey. Your input will help us identify essential information that the SBOE can use to adopt the board rules necessary to implement this legislatively mandated reporting requirement.

This survey will be available online for district test coordinators until October 24, 2003. If you have any questions about this survey or the Texas assessment program, please contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Sincerely,

Lisa Chandler
Director, Student Assessment Division

c: District Superintendent