

March 1, 2004

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Lexile Framework for Reading

A new resource linking Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scale scores to Lexile measures is now available at no cost to Texas educators and parents. This resource is based on a recently completed study using 2003 TAKS data to link TAKS with the Lexile Framework.

The Lexile Framework is an educational tool that helps schools and parents evaluate and monitor the development of students' ability to read and understand increasingly challenging texts. This framework is built upon the establishment of Lexile measures both for individual students and for individual texts. For a student, the Lexile measure is based on the level of his or her reading performance, that is, the degree to which he or she comprehends written texts, including books, read both in and outside of school. For an individual text, the Lexile measure is based on the difficulty of that text with regard to certain characteristics, such as sentence length.

Although Lexiles cannot be equated to particular grade levels, they can be a positive contributor to students' reading improvement. By matching each student with written texts targeted to his or her reading level, the Lexile Framework helps ensure that a student is reading material that he or she can read independently without frustration. Successful reading experiences foster confidence and help students strengthen their reading comprehension over time.

Currently the Lexile database contains more than 40,000 titles. In addition, there is a Spanish version of the Lexile Framework, called El Sistema Lexile, with a database of approximately 1,600 titles. It is important to remember that the texts available through this resource do not constitute either a state-mandated or comprehensive reading list. Districts have local decision-making authority to determine what reading resources and/or programs are most appropriate for their student populations.

Lexile conversion tables and additional information about the Lexile Framework are available online at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/lexile/>.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Division of Curriculum at (512) 463-9581 or the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Sincerely,

Susan Barnes
Associate Commissioner for Programs and Standards