

March 12, 2004

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: May Field Testing for the State-Developed Alternative Assessment II (SDAA II)

As announced in the *Test Schedule for the Texas Student Assessment Program, 2003–2004 School Year*, which was sent to districts February 7, 2003, field tests for SDAA II will be conducted May 3 - 14, 2004.

The following chart lists the grades and subject areas to be tested.

Field Test Dates: May 3 - 14, 2004
SDAA II: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing for enrolled Grade 4 students, Instructional Levels K/1–3/4• Writing for enrolled Grade 7 students, Instructional Levels K/1–6/7• Mathematics for enrolled Grades 3–10 students, Instructional Levels K–10• Reading for enrolled Grades 3–8 students, Instructional Levels K–8

All eligible students in your district are required to participate in the SDAA II field tests. In all districts in the state, enrolled students are eligible for an SDAA II field test if

- they receive special education services and are receiving instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum on at least the Kindergarten level;
- their admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee has determined that TAKS, even with allowable accommodations, is not appropriate; and
- SDAA II is the most appropriate assessment for them.

Limited English proficient (LEP) students served by special education who are LEP-exempt on the basis of limited English proficiency in spring 2004 are not required to participate in the SDAA II field tests.

District testing coordinators will receive detailed information about the SDAA II field tests. Your district may develop a local schedule to administer the SDAA II field tests during the designated two-week window. The field tests are not timed. However, once a student

begins taking a field test, the student must complete that test on the same day he or she began.

Some campuses will be chosen to participate in a special research study to be conducted as part of the May SDAA II field tests. This research study is necessary to construct a new vertical scale for the implementation of SDAA II in 2005. Test administrator manuals will include specific administration directions for those campuses participating in the special study.

If you have any questions or desire additional information concerning the May 2004 SDAA II field tests, please call the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536. We appreciate your support of these important activities, which are necessary to provide a valid and reliable assessment of student performance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Chandler".

Lisa Chandler
Director, Student Assessment