

Additional Information on TAKS Passing Standard

November 2002

- State Board of Education (SBOE) adopts the phase-in schedule for passing standards.
- SBOE requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to maintain equivalent performance on future test forms after the 2003 forms are used.
- The phase-in schedule calls for
 - a 2 standard error of measurement (SEM) standard in 2003,
 - a 1 SEM standard in 2004, and
 - a Panel-Recommended standard in 2005.
- For 2003 these standards at grade 3 reading correspond to raw scores of 20, 22, and 24, respectively.

Spring 2003

- First administration of the new Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) takes place.
- Each raw score is converted to a newly developed scale-score system.
 - A scale score of 2100 corresponds to the Panel-Recommended standard.
 - Scale scores corresponding to the 2 SEM and 1 SEM standards are also set--these scale-score standards can be used for future comparisons across years at the phase-in standards.
- Spring 2003 tests are released publicly; the items cannot be used again on future tests.

July 2003

- The State Board of Education considers at first reading the scale-score standards that correspond to the raw-score standards set previously in November 2002.

September 2003

- The State Board of Education adopts scale-score standards.
- Scale scores, not raw scores, ensure equivalent performance is maintained at each test administration.
 - For example, the TAAS TLI of 70 was the constant; the corresponding raw scores varied.

March 2004

- The spring administration of the grade 3 reading TAKS occurs.
- Districts return answer documents for processing. Once about half of the documents are scanned (not all of the student booklets), the equating process begins.
- The equating process is like that used for TAAS and TEAMS.
- Equating is the standard industry practice and is used for testing programs such as ACT, SAT, and all other state testing programs.
- The statistical equating indicates the 2004 grade 3 reading test, which consists of entirely different items than the 2003 test, is slightly easier.
 - The scale score at the 1 SEM passing standard remains the same as established by the SBOE.
 - The raw score cut shifts one item.

April 2004

- Students take other TAKS tests at various grades in various subject areas.
- A similar equating process occurs with shifts in raw scores at the passing standard expected.
- Shifts in raw scores may be more pronounced for tests that involve open-ended and essay questions or that have to be field-tested separately.

April 2004 and Beyond

- Educators are encouraged to continue to focus on maximum achievement for all students, never the minimum required for passing.
- Emphasis is placed on referring to scale scores, rather than raw scores.
- The scale score system ensures that the standards remain constant across years *even when the tests themselves and the students taking the tests differ each year.*