February 4, 2003

TO THE TEST COORDINATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: New Rule Clarifying TAAS/TAKS Transition

Adopted new 19 TAC §101.3003 (under 101, Subchapter CC. Commissioner's Rules Concerning Implementation of Testing Program), effective February 16, 2003, addresses a transitional issue regarding the first cohort that must meet exit level testing requirements with the TAKS. This section clarifies that students who are on an accelerated track and who fulfill all graduation requirements other than passage of an exit level test before September 1, 2004, may fulfill their testing requirements for graduation with the Grade 10 exit level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test. This applies to students regardless of whether they were enrolled in Grade 8 or a lower grade on January 1, 2001.

Please note the following two important points:

1. Students for whom this new rule may apply must meet all graduation requirements (e.g., course credits) other than the exit level test on or before August 31, 2004, to be able to graduate with TAAS. If this condition is not met, the student must meet exit level testing requirements with TAKS. Districts must notify parents in advance of this possible consequence.

2. If the above condition is met, students may continue to take TAAS to meet exit level testing requirements.

Further information on this transitional issue including the rule text is available on the Student Assessment Division web site at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/grad/. There you will find two documents flagged as new about this subject. You may also contact the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.