



Felipe T. Alanis
Commissioner of Education

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

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TO THE SUPERINTENDENT ADDRESSED:

After administration of the third-grade Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) reading test began on March 4, the Texas Education Agency received reports that there was a duplicate test question on one form of the exam.

Agency staff has determined that there was one duplicate test item on one of the 56 forms, or versions, of the reading test. Questions 1 and 11 were identical on Form 22, which was the only test form affected. This test form was used by approximately 5,000 or about 1.8 percent of the estimated 280,000 third-grade students who took the English version of the test. Like each of the test forms, this form was uniformly distributed across all campuses statewide. The duplicated question was an item that would count toward the student's score and was not a field test item. Both the original question and the repeated question were test questions associated with the same reading passage. The Spanish version of the third-grade TAKS reading test was not impacted by the printing error.

After consultation with the testing contractor, Pearson Educational Measurement, and nationally-recognized experts in testing, the agency has determined that, on Form 22, the student's response to question 1 will be scored and credit will be given for question 11. This procedure will assure that no students will be disadvantaged by this error. We believe this approach is fairest to the students. The decision to give students credit for the repeated question means that scores for all third-grade students will be based on 36 test items. As is usually the practice, there will be no notation on the student's Confidential Student Report that indicates which test form the student took.

There is no adjustment necessary to students' scores who took any other test form, since their test booklet did not contain the duplicated item.

We regret the error and apologize for any inconvenience caused to students and administrators. Please be assured that the agency and the testing contractor are taking steps to prevent this situation from occurring again. Please call Pearson Educational Measurement at 1-800-252-9186 or the Texas Education Agency at 512-463-9536 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Ann Smisko
Associate Commissioner
Curriculum, Assessment, and Technology

cc: Test Coordinator