

Chapter 9 Resources



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Overview

In addition to the information provided in the Technical Digest, Texas Education Agency's (TEA's) Student Assessment Division makes a number of resources available to districts, educators, researchers, and parents.

Texas Student Assessment Division Website

The Texas Assessment Student Division website contains information about the development, administration, scoring and analysis of the statewide assessment program.

The landing page includes links to the most recent information and documents available on the site, as well as a link to an A–Z directory of information and documents available online. Visitors are also invited to receive e-mail notifications about recent updates by subscribing to various TEA mailing lists, which are available at <http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/list/index>.

Shown below is a quick guide to information and commonly used references available on [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#). Following the quick guide are more detailed descriptions of some of the documents available from the website.

Table 48. Quick Guide to Online References

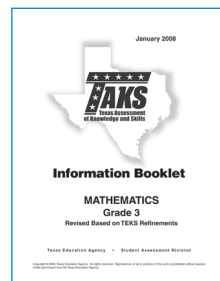
Topic	Access
TAKS resources	http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/taks
ELL assessments	http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ELL
TAKS–M resources	http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/taksm
TAKS–Alt resources	http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/taksalt



Topic	Access
EOC assessments	http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/EOC
<i>Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Texas Assessment Program</i>	http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/FAQ.pdf
<i>2009–2010 Test Security Supplement</i>	http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/security/test_security_supplement.pdf
<i>ARD Committee Decision-Making Process for the Texas Assessment Program</i>	http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/ard/2009-2010-ARD-Manual.pdf
<i>Grade Placement Committee Manual</i>	http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/ssi/GPCManual.pdf
<i>2009–2010 Accommodations Manual</i>	http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/accommodations/AccommManual_2009_10.pdf
<i>LPAC Decision-Making Process for the Texas Assessment Program</i>	http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ELL
<i>2010 District and Campus Coordinator Manual Supplement</i>	http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/guides/coormanual/dccm_supplement.pdf
<i>2010 District and Campus Coordinator Manual</i>	http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3679&menu_id=793

Information Booklets

TAKS Information Booklets



The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) was implemented beginning in spring 2003. To provide a better understanding of TAKS and its connection to the statewide curriculum, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), TEA developed [TAKS information booklets](#), which were originally published in January 2002 before the first TAKS field test. After several years of field tests and live administrations, the information booklets were revised in August 2004 to provide an even more comprehensive picture of the testing program. The TEKS for mathematics were refined and approved by the State Board of Education in 2005. As a result of the TEKS refinements, the TAKS Mathematics Information Booklets were revised. Some of the existing material has been clarified and, in some cases, new sample items and/or more explanations of certain item types are provided. These clarifications do not signify any substantial change in the TAKS testing program. The objectives assessed on TAKS remain unchanged.



The revised versions of the TAKS information booklets serve as a user-friendly resource to help educators, parents, and students understand that the best preparation for TAKS is a coherent, TEKS-based instructional program that provides the level of support necessary for all students to reach their academic potential.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TAKS INFORMATION BOOKLETS

The purpose of the information booklets is to help Texas educators, parents, students, and other stakeholders understand more about the TAKS tests. These booklets are not intended to replace the teaching of the TEKS curriculum, provide the basis for the isolated teaching of skills in the form of narrow test preparation, or serve as the single information source about every aspect of the TAKS program. However, the booklets provide helpful explanations as well as show sample items, reading and writing selections, and prompts to give educators a good sense of the assessment.

Each grade within a subject area is presented as a separate booklet. It is recommended that teachers review the information booklets for the grades both above and below the grade they teach. For example, grade 8 reading teachers who review the grade 7 booklet as well as the grade 9 booklet are able to develop a broader perspective of the TAKS reading assessment than if they study only the grade 8 booklet.

Figure 5. TAKS Information Booklets

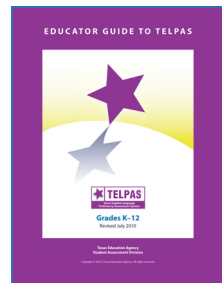
Grade	Subject				
3 →	Mathematics (English) Mathematics (Spanish)	Reading (English) Reading (Spanish)			
4 →	Mathematics (English) Mathematics (Spanish)	Reading (English) Reading (Spanish)	Writing (English) Writing (Spanish)		
5 →	Mathematics (English) Mathematics (Spanish)	Reading (English) Reading (Spanish)		Science (English) Science (Spanish)	
6 →	Mathematics	Reading			
7 →	Mathematics	Reading	Writing		
8 →	Mathematics	Reading		Science	Social Studies
9 →	Mathematics	Reading			
10 →	Mathematics		ELA	Science	Social Studies
Exit Level →	Mathematics		ELA	Science	Social Studies



The information booklets for each subject area contain some information unique to that subject. For example, the mathematics chart that students use on TAKS is included for each grade at which mathematics is assessed. However, all booklets include the following information, which is considered critical for every subject-area TAKS test:

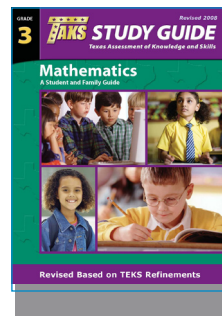
- an overview of the subject within the context of TAKS
- a blueprint of the test—the number of items under each objective and the number of items on the test as a whole
- information that clarifies how to read the TEKS
- the reasons each objective and its TEKS student expectations are critical to student learning and success
- the objectives and TEKS student expectations that are included on TAKS
- additional information about each objective that helps educators understand how it is assessed on TAKS
- sample items that show some of the ways objectives are assessed

Educator Guide to TELPAS



This July 2010 publication replaces the former *TELPAS Reading Information Booklet*. The guide shows the integral relationship between the Texas English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) and the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS). Explanatory information is included as well as web-based student video segments, authentic student writing, and sample test questions. The guide is available on [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/studentassessmentdivisionsite/).

Study Guides



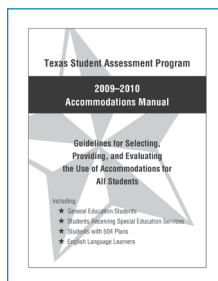
The Texas Education Agency developed TAKS study guides to help students strengthen the TEKS-based knowledge and skills that are taught in class and tested on TAKS. The guides are designed for students to use on their own or for students and families to work through together. Concepts are presented in a variety of ways that will help students review the information and skills they need to be successful on TAKS.

Study guides are available for purchase at <http://www.TexasAssessment.com/publications> or as printable documents on TEA's Student Assessment Division website.



Procedural Manuals

Accommodations Manual

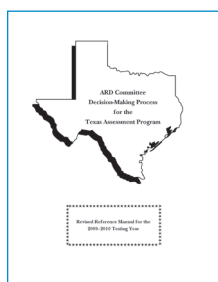


When appropriate accommodations are provided in classroom instruction and testing, students are more successful in learning. When students are provided appropriate accommodations that are allowed during state assessments, their test results will be more valid and reliable indicators of what they know and can do in relation to the grade-level TEKS. To ensure that all students are given access to accommodations during state testing, it is necessary for district personnel to be familiar with guidelines for selecting, providing, and evaluating the use of accommodations.

TEA developed the [Accommodations Manual](#) to provide guidance to admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committees, Section 504 committees, and language proficiency assessment committees (LPACs) in learning about, selecting, providing, and evaluating the use of accommodations in instruction and assessment. The information in the manual is applicable to all students requiring accommodations.

The *Accommodations Manual* is available online only and is updated each year.

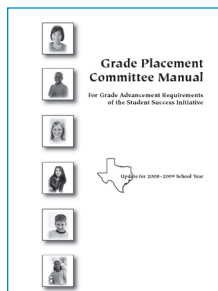
ARD Manual



The [ARD Committee Decision-Making Process for the Texas Assessment Program: Revised Reference Manual for the 2009–2010 Testing Year](#) is designed to guide ARD committees in making decisions about placement in the Texas Student Assessment Program for students receiving special education services for the 2009–2010 school year. This manual explains to ARD committees how to make these decisions by using the TEKS curriculum as documented in each student's individualized education program (IEP).

The *ARD Manual* is available online only and is updated each year.

GPC Manual



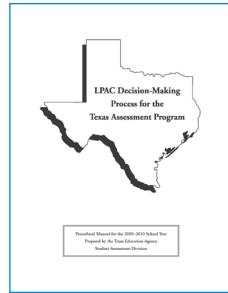
The [Grade Placement Committee Manual for the Grade Advancement Requirements of the Student Success Initiative](#) is designed to guide GPCs through the process of evaluating student performance, determining accelerated instruction plans (AIPs), and making promotion decisions. The manual also provides districts with detailed instructions for implementing all requirements of the SSI and includes timelines, flowcharts, and sample forms and letters to aid districts with parental notification and documentation of activities. The sample forms



and letters are provided in both English and Spanish to help districts meet the requirement of a good-faith effort to provide parental notifications in the parent's native language.

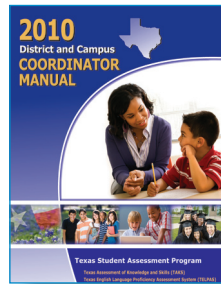
The GPC Manual is available online only and is updated annually.

LPAC Manual



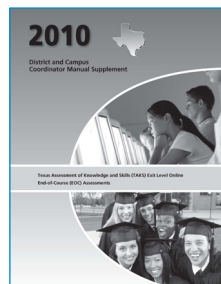
Section 101.1003 of the Commissioner's Rules Concerning the Participation of Limited English Proficient Students in State Assessments requires LPACs to make assessment decisions on an individual student basis and in accordance with administrative procedures established by TEA. The publication titled *LPAC Decision-Making Process for the Texas Student Assessment Program* was developed to guide LPACs in making decisions about the inclusion of ELLs in the Texas assessment program and to promote an increased awareness of their educational needs. The LPAC Manual is available online only and is updated annually.

District and Campus Coordinator Manual



The *2010 District and Campus Coordinator Manual* explains the responsibilities of district and campus testing coordinators for the TAKS, including TAKS (Accommodated), TAKS–M, and TELPAS testing programs. This manual encompasses preparation and administration procedures for each program for the 2009–2010 school year. Separate test administrator manuals and field-test administrator manuals are distributed to districts before each test administration.

District and Campus Coordinator Manual Supplement



The *2010 District and Campus Coordinator Manual Supplement* describes procedures for district and campus personnel to follow in administering the online TAKS and EOC assessments.

This manual includes

- guides and training tools for online testing;
- policies and processes specific to online testing;
- information for planning the administration of EOC assessments; and
- program-specific information for testing coordinators, including training, materials, and score codes.



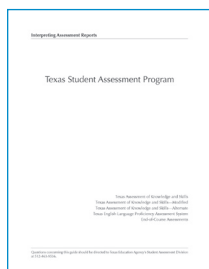
Released Tests

In accordance with TEC, §39.023(e) and 19 TAC, §101.33, every third year TEA shall release the questions and answer keys only for primary administration assessment instruments administered under TEC, §39.023(a), (b), (c), (d), and (l). In the nonrelease years, a set of representative field-test items that are at least four years old and that are no longer eligible for inclusion on a subsequent test form will be released.

All regional education service centers (ESCs) and districts are able to access copies of released test forms, answer keys, and scoring guides on [TEA's Student Assessment Division website](#). Additional hard copies of these materials are made available through Pearson for a nominal fee.

A document authorizing district superintendents and ESC directors to reproduce the copyrighted materials only for noncommercial purposes is also included with the released test materials. Appropriate noncommercial use of released test materials includes disclosing the released test items to the public and using the released tests for the formative evaluation of Texas students.

Interpreting Assessment Reports



The guide titled [Interpreting Assessment Reports](#) provides information about the assessments that comprise the Texas assessment program (including TAKS, TAKS–M, TAKS–Alt, TELPAS, and EOC) and the assessment reports and performance data provided to Texas districts following each test administration.

The guide is updated each year with examples of standard and optional assessment reports for each testing program as well as information to assist school personnel in understanding and interpreting the student performance data contained in each report, as required by TEC §39.030(b).

