

TSNAP Teleconference **MINUTES**

November 2, 2006 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

HOUSEKEEPING – Roll call by Steve Peterson, ESC Region 20
PLEASE turn off cell phone and pagers

TSNAP SECTION – Vicki Thomas, 2006 TSNAP President

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, MEMBERSHIP CALL – Find applications at www.tsnap.com

TEXAS ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE UPDATES

- December 11-13, 2006 Austin Hilton Hotel
Hotel Reservations are closed at the Hilton but call them for information about other options in the area
- Future dates December 2-5, 2007 December 6-9, 2009
 December 7-10, 2008 December 5-8, 2010
- Program has been finalized. If you made a proposal, you should have already heard about your session(s) from TASA.
- If you have not heard about your session yet, please contact Toska Graham at TASA tgraham@tasanet.org
- Need about 10 more volunteers for the TSNAP booth at the Testing Conference. Please contact David Baum david.baum@abileneisd.org if you can help out at the booth!
- If you plan to attend the TSNAP Breakfast on Wednesday of the conference, you MUST be a paid TSNAP member. You can pay dues by going online to get the application from the TSNAP website and then mailing them to David Baum in Abilene. Don't wait to do this since time is short to pay in advance.

FALL TRAINING ACADEMY REPORTS FROM SEPTEMBER

- New Test Coordinators Academy – Kevin Stoerner, Katy ISD
[Thinks it is a good idea to continue to offer the academy to new coordinators. 250-300 people attended both days. Kevin is still waiting for the survey results, but got great responses from those in attendance.](#)
- Not-So-New Test Coordinators Academy – Debbie Stevenson for Kathy Aaron, Ft. Bend ISD
[250 people participated in this academy. TSNAP, Pearson and TEA worked well together to make the academy a success. Also got great responses from the participants about how valuable the academy is to them.](#)

TETN MODERATOR – Sandra Poth, 2003 TSNAP President

TEA SECTION – Lisa Chandler and TEA Staff

- STATE TESTING CALENDARS
[Field Test Sampling- TEA is in the process of creating a letter for districts that should be out next week and lists the campuses and grade levels chosen for field testing this spring.](#)
[Kimberly O'Malley, the lead psychometrician fro Pearson, stated that they were working hard to minimize the burden to districts by creating a relief year every other](#)

year for campuses. Kimberly said that this year we will see a reduced number of students tested as well as a reduced number of campuses selected.

She stated that this year the stand alone field tests for grades 4 & 7 Writing, grade 9 Reading and grades 10 & 11 ELA will have procedural changes starting in January. Teachers will no longer read the prompt to the students which will allow students testing with different forms to test in the same class.

Campuses that participated in the following tests will **not** field test this spring:

- Fall Online ELA
- Quantile Study
- NAEP
- RPTE Fall Study

Across the state 7% fewer students will participate in field testing this spring:

- Grade 4 – 5 % less
- Grade 7 & 9 – 10 % less
- Grade 10 ELA- 16% less
- Grade 11 ELA- 6% less

EOC Biology and Geometry in an online field test. This spring campuses that are selected for the grade 11 ELA stand alone field test will also be chosen to participate in EOC for Biology and Geometry (1/2 of grade level or up to 300 students).

RPTE II Field Test- Fall RPTE Campuses will not be required to participate in the spring. 1/3 of the state will be required to participate in the RPTE II Field Test.

Calendars for 2007-2008 & 2008-2009- posted on the Student Assessment web site. HB 1 required that TEA revise the calendar based on the later start date. It is posted again for review by districts and ESC's.

There is a conflict with state testing on October 19, 2007 with a state social studies conference.

There was a question from the field asking who district curriculum staff contact to discuss the content of the social studies and science tests for grade 8 next year. Victoria Young stated that the scope and sequence would be taken into consideration when building the tests. Some of the items from this year may not be appropriate to place on the test next year. Student Assessment will get input from districts about when they are teaching the TEKS.

There was a question from the field regarding the live broadcast of the ESC Training in December or possibility a TETN. Gloria Zyskowski stated that she doubted that people would want to participate in a TETN 2 day training. Gloria stated that the PowerPoint presentations are posted online. Student Assessment is exploring online training modules that will cover the state training, but that will not be available until maybe December 2007.

Online Testing Calendar- Districts stated that it was difficult to find enough computers to test using the traditional calendar for testing. Lisa Chandler state that they were looking into the possibility of testing online a week prior to the paper test, but that there were issues with test security.

➤ KEY POLICY CHANGES FOR 2006-2007

Dyslexia Bundled Accommodations- Victoria Young

TEA has moved forward in implementing DBA at grades 6-8 for TAKS Reading. Grade 8 was a scheduling issue for this year only since SSI will take care of the scheduling issue next year.

DBA has the potential for students to show reading ability that will make the scheduling problems worthwhile, according to Victoria Young.

A letter was sent to districts concerning DBA for 2007. Also, page 45 of the 2007 Coordinator Manual will cover the scheduling.

Gloria Zyskowski addressed the policy changes in the new 2007 Coordinator Manual:

- DBA for grades 6-8 as well as 3-5
- Alternate Assessments
- Testing Recent Immigrants and TOP in 2007
- Field Testing in 2007

Gloria also stated that for the Grade 10 ELA Makeup test in February no copies of the Open Ended or Composition will be allowed. It will still be okay to make copies of the Primary OE and Composition.

Also, starting this year the test administrator will no longer read the prompt to students unless individual students request it be read to them. That will allow multiple forms tested in the same testing room. This is for TAKS only- not SDAA II.

➤ NAEP UPDATE

Cathi Kline, the state NAEP Coordinator, stated that 214 districts will participate in NAEP.

- Grade 4 Campuses – 295
- Grade 8 Campuses- 226
- Grade 12 Campuses- 53

Total: 574 Campuses with 96% participating in NAEP

Next year District Test Coordinators will be included in all emails before campuses are contacted. Also, when the selection letter is sent to districts there will be a box to check if the district will be supplying the student enrollment files rather than campuses submitting individual files.

➤ TELPAS UPDATE- Laura Ayala

1. RPTE and RPTE II

USDE evaluated RPTE and determined that the assessment did not assess the reading TEKS and so there will be a change to testing exempted recent immigrants this spring. The state will need to administer a test that is the same as TAKS, and a letter from TEA is being written to send to districts.

So, exempted recent immigrants will need to take TAKS Reading in English or Spanish in grades 3-8 & 10. This will affect 2nd and 3rd year recent immigrants that have been exempted. First year exemptions don't count for AYP, so those students will take RPTE and be exempt from TAKS Reading and count for participation.

RPTE will remain as assessment for Texas since it is the Title III NCLB and state accountability. Students will count as participants and if they meet the standard they will also count for performance.

LAT for Reading- TEA is working on it and there will be a Web X Conference with the ELL Advisory Group on Monday. The linguistic accommodations may not come out until the ESC Training in December.

RPTE II- RPTE II will field test in spring online. There will be an opportunity for campuses to preview TestNav version of the test. It will be posted on the PEM Solutions site by the end of November. Students will be able to take the released RPTE online in order to get comfortable with the tools and test format. Grades 2-12 will be available online before the spring field test.

2. TOP

Last week was the last week of the Fall Qualifying Window (ended Nov. 3rd).

There will be a series of TOP courses available online they are about 1 hour in length. TEA noticed problems with the writing sample collections and it will be addressed in the 2007 Coordinator Manual. TEA will now require all districts to have procedures in writing to ensure rater validity and reliability.

TETN - TOP online course Nov. 8, 2006 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. on the Learning Management System. December 11, 2006 the courses will begin online.

TOP Audit for 2006- TEA is mailing districts letters that summarize the audit. There are three documents posted online. Early next week the 25 entities will get individual district results.

➤ ALTERNATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT UPDATE

1. TAKS-Alt- Cari Weiland

TAKS ALT Pilot is going on now and TEA will visit some sites in the next few weeks.

There is a great document provided by the National Center for Educational Outcomes that districts should use. The link to the site is:

www.educationmn.edu/NCEO/onlinepubs/parents.pdf

NCLB and IDEA is covered in the document.

The 4th Module will come out January 9, 2007 1-3 p.m. Event #24582

The Field Test for TAKS-ALT I January 8th - April 13th; the submission window is April 2nd through April 13th. There will be updates to the website soon.

If districts want to submit a data file for TAKS-ALT Pearson will email districts with the information soon. If districts do not submit a data file the student data for the field test must be hand entered.

TAKS-ALT Parent Brochure- TEA needs to complete pilot first and then will create a brochure before the 2008 administration.

2. TAKS-M –

TEA is still waiting for approval from USDE. It is a grade level achievement standards test.

3. TAKS-I

Grade level achievement standards test with a TAKS format and expanded accommodations. It uses the TAKS passing standards. Cari reminded everyone that there is no retest for TAKS-I. If ARD decides to tie TAKS-I to graduation they need to understand the ramifications. If the student does not pass the test the ARD will have to reconvene and either give the student a TAKS test or exempt the student and administer an LDAA.

In 2008 there will **not** be an LDAA anymore so TEA will have to look at TAKS-I retest opportunities.

➤ **ONLINE TESTING UPDATE- Gloria Zyskowski**

Districts will soon be receiving a detailed letter from TEA regarding online testing. Also, a letter from TEA will be coming before the end of the year regarding the technical infrastructure requirements for online testing and long range plans for online testing until 2010.

There will be a **Web X for IT Staff** on Nov. 20, 2006 from 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. and a repeat of that session on Dec. 6, 2006 from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Participants will need to register for the Web X and the information on how to do that will be in a letter that will be coming soon from TEA.

December 5, 2006 from 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 a.m.- **TETN for district test coordinators** concerning online testing.

➤ **SECURE MATERIALS RESOLUTION UPDATE- Gloria Zyskowski**

The accounting for secure materials will be more stringent this year at TEA. The resolution rate for secure materials has dramatically increased this past year. There has been a request from the field to have a letter sent to districts informing them that all of their materials have been located and the matter is resolved. Gloria stated that they are looking into the matter and the timing is not clear when the letter would be sent to districts.

There will be a **Test Security Supplement** update this spring as well as a new **Secure Materials Supplement** that will be released in December.

Caveon Audits- The audits are being reviewed by a panel of experts brought in by TEA. The panel is composed of former superintendents and principals. The panel should be finished this week and new Inspector General will get a report from the panel. On December 8, 2006 the Commissioner's Task Force will meet to discuss recommendations to the commissioner. Gloria did not know when districts would hear anything regarding the audits.

➤ **ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATE, Shannon Houssan**

Read the Preview Chapter of the 2006 Accountability Manual to learn more. TAKS-I results will be separated row by subject on the AEIS report. AEIS is released in mid November 2006. Next Thursday, Nov. 9th the TEAS release of AEIS is expected. The public release of the report will occur before Thanksgiving.

Recent PowerPoint presentations from Sept. 18th & October 20th are available on the Performance Reporting web site.

PEARSON SECTION – Walter Sherwood –

Pearson is working on a process that will allow them to send districts the ranges for all additional orders this spring.

➤ **BRILLE MATERIALS ORDERING**

An email was sent to districts this week regarding the ordering of Braille test materials for 2007. There are 3 order forms – one per test program. Pearson needs at least 90 days in advance of the test to fill the Braille orders. Enrollment is open through Nov. 12th. Districts will need to determine if the students using Braille will need contracted or uncontracted tests.

➤ **STUDY GUIDES**

A follow up letter will be coming to districts in the next few weeks. In the spring 2007 study guides will be by grade level and single subject. The rosters will show the subject and the student name. The study guide material will remain the same, but it will be divided by subject and grade.

Online Study Guides- online interactive study guides that are tied to the test will be phased in this year starting with grades 3 & 5 and Exit.

OTHER TOPICS IF TIME PERMITS