

TSNAP Teleconference Minutes

June 15, 2006, 9:00 - Noon

HOUSEKEEPING – Roll call by Sandra Poth, Region 20

PLEASE turn off cell phone and pagers

Commissioner Shirley Neeley was introduced by Lisa Chandler. Commissioner Neeley stated that she wanted to address the cheating allegations. She stated that she had met with the superintendents from the Dallas area concerning the allegations. Commissioner Neeley called on all district test coordinators to work with TEA to tell “one story of all that we have done to work on test security.”

Commissioner Neeley stated that Caveon was supposed to use the data from 2005 as a pilot and that TEA never intended for the results to be published. However, a Dallas reporter requested the information and TEA overnighted a letter to districts alerting them. Data anomalies are not necessarily evidence of cheating it could be just good teaching. The commissioner stated that there is always room for improvement, but with a state the size of Texas there will always be room for improvement. It is hard to make an analysis with only one year’s worth of data. When we get the 2006 data we will be able to better make a comparison.

The commissioner asked for districts to make factual responses to the press about what each of us is doing regarding test security. She asked us to speak with one voice every teacher, principal and superintendent; if one is accused it is too many. She feels that there have been significant changes being made that result in good teaching.

The commissioner thanked everyone for their hard work; she asked us to be proud of the security measures that we are taking and to continue to take test security seriously.

The commissioner then took questions from the field before leaving the teleconference.

TSNAP SECTION – Vicki Thomas, 2006 TSNAP President

Welcome, Introductions, and Membership Call: Applications at www.tsnap.com

Texas Assessment Conference Dates

Upcoming School Year: December 11-13, 2006 Austin Hilton Hotel

Future dates	December 2-5, 2007	December 6-9, 2009
	December 7-10, 2008	December 5-8, 2010

New call for more TAC presenters----sessions from small and medium districts as well as 'how-to sessions'; deadline passed but session proposals will still be accepted until Friday, June 19th. Go to www.tasanet.org to find the application.

Fall Training Academy Schedule for 2006 (Site: Pearson Plant in Austin)

- New Test Coordinators Academy - Sept. 12th or 13th, 2006
- Not-So-New Test Coordinators Academy – Sept. 26th or 27th, 2006
- Call for TSNAP helpers. Contact Vicki Thomas, Kevin Stoermer or Kathi Aaron if you would like to help at the academy. Email addresses can be located at the TSNAP website.
- District Test Coordinators will be invited by mail after August 1, 2006. Check ASK TED to see if the correct test coordinator is listed.

TETN MODERATOR – Sandra Poth, 2003 TSNAP President

TEA SECTION – Lisa Chandler and TEA Staff

UPDATE ON TEA STAFFING (if needed)

Lucy Farmer from Region 8 is now the newest member of the math team at TEA

STATE TESTING CALENDARS/SCHEDULING- Gloria Zyskowski

2006-2007 Calendar revisions

New calendar was posted 6-13-06 on the TEA Student Assessment website. Two changes have been made:

- TAKS Field Test Dates moved from April back to January for grades 4, 7 & 9. The move was a result of ESC survey. Nineteen of the twenty ESC's voted to move the field testing back to January. The field test dates in the 2007-2008 & 2008-2009 calendars will reflect the changes made for next year.
Lisa Chandler asked for districts that already have calendars for 2007 and beyond to send them to student assessment.
- EOC Window was expanded 1 week for a total of 4 weeks - April 23-May 18, 2007

FIELD TEST – Kimberly O'Malley, Pearson

Update on Field Testing---explanation of the sampling/selection method

End of Course online field-testing—define 'mandatory'

Kim agreed to do a session at the assessment conference on field testing.

Kim explained that we field test in order to create tests that are "fair to all students" and explained that counting the test results would not be fair to the students because some of the items may not be used on a live test. She went on to explain the need to field test so many items was due to the use of multiple forms of tests, make up forms and released tests. 3,500 students are required to field test each test form.

Pearson was asked to consider not field testing TAKS Exit Retesters. Lisa Chandler explained that the October retest does not have field test items, but that in April the retesters use the primary administration form.

EOC is a mandatory field test online for selected campuses. Lisa Chandler did not feel comfortable at this time in narrowing the definition of mandatory.

New Field Test Plan-

- Option 1 – Field test once every 5 years
- Option 2- Two relief years for all campuses

Kimberly O'Malley stated that the best plan was what she called the 80/20 plan where every 5 years campuses would have 1 year on ineligibility for field testing. She asked for input from the field regarding this issue. She was asked to put together a survey... She was also asked for a list of campuses who would not be participating in field testing next year. Lisa Chandler responded that TEA needed fall enrollment data before deciding who would field test.

ELL ASSESSMENTS

Discuss results of May 31 TETN as they relate to changes planned for TOP
Laura Ayala stated that ELL focus group will meet again in July. TOP's new training system was discussed as well as the audit, development of reports for the audit. Laura could not give us any results of the audit or any recommendations yet. She did state that a telephone conference will occur next week to make decisions regarding training before the July statewide training occurs.

Results of the TOP Writing Collection audit if available or timeline to receive report
Laura did report that collections from the districts are in the process of being rescored at the state level to get a picture of the quality of the samples. Over 2,000 surveys from test coordinators and 7,000 raters surveys were turned in to TEA.

Could we get the TOP Rater information in a data file so that it can imported directly into the district computer system instead of working from a PDF file (to save time)?
Laura stated that YES, TEA can get us a data file. Pearson is working on a statewide database of raters that maybe available in the spring. Laura also stated that certificates will hopefully be printed from the site and not emailed. They are working on it!

Could LAT Math be the same test as the TAKS to reduce another version?

Laura explained that the first year we had LAT we used the live TAKS Math tests (form 1) and this year we had a LAT test. Focus groups stated that no previewing should be allowed and that having the state create Linguistic Simplification Guides (LSG's) was a good idea. The focus group wanted a separate LAT test.

DYSLEXIA BUNDLED ACCOMMODATIONS

Update on dyslexia bundled accommodations, i.e.: When will we hear if the DBA will be added to Grade 6 & above for ARD committees developing IEPs?
Victoria Young stated that Dr. Fletcher's group has submitted all tests to Pearson from the secondary study of DBA. The data has to be hand entered at Pearson and when that is completed Pearson and Dr. Fletcher will analyze the data. At grade 7 a study was done using a one day administration and also a two day administration of the reading test using DBA. The ELA Exit study only involved one day of DBA.
Victoria stated that middle school and high school will be decided separately and that we will hear something by the beginning of August.

SPECIAL EDUCATION –Cari Wieland

Update on Special Education assessments including anything to update on TAKS-Alt
Cari previewed several documents that are still in draft form. They documents will be available on the web in a few weeks and are only 1 page each in length
Cari will also give the documents to Muffet Livaudais and Vicki Thomas to post.

Management of TAKS-Alt---do you expect that all the support comes through district testing coordinators as with TOP?
Cari said that we are still a year and a half away from the live test. Cari feels like test coordinators will be expected to get the information to the state and encouraged collaboration between special education and testing.

Is there a way that we could get guidance or a more specific definition of 'on grade level' or 'approximately-on-level' so that all districts adhere to the same standard during placement?

Cari stated that TEA is in the process of putting together an authentic training with 4 modules that are approximately 30 minutes in length. The modules will be rolled out in the fall with the first module available in August 2006. The training involves real video and photos of students in Texas.

Cari did not have any information at this point in time concerning the "approximately on grade level"... she said it is an ARD placement issue. TEA is still waiting on the 2% regulations. She said the ARD language is vague because TEA does not have all of the information yet.

The ARD Manual that has just been posted to the web has very few changes from last year. The dates for testing are just about the only changes in it as this will be the last ARD Manual as we know it.

ONLINE TESTING TOPICS

Update on scheduling of the Louisiana GEE Online testing program

Lisa Chandler stated that Louisiana still does not have all of next year's GEE dates posted. However, the October retest date is the same time as our own TAKS retest in October! Lisa has contacted her counterpart in LA asking for other dates for October, but still has not heard back from LA.

Could we find out how much space (as in how many characters/lines of text) a student can write on his/her Open Ended Responses and Composition when done online? Teachers would like this information.

Victoria Young stated that TEA was concerned about the amount of space students would have to answer online, so they found the two longest examples of compositions and open ended responses and typed them in online to see if there was enough space. She stated that she discovered that students will have "sufficient space" to answer the questions.

Victoria stated that TEA will be conducting a very limited usability study in the fall (3 campuses) dealing with a cut and paste function for online testing of ELA students. She wants to determine if there is a way that students will be able to see how much room they have left when typing their responses. If students like the new function in the study it will become available to all students in the future.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

How will actions in the Special Session affect Student Assessment/Testing?

Lisa Chandler stated that TEA has published a briefing book on the web that has three pages that deal with assessment. The pages that specifically deal with assessment issues are pages 31, 32 & 76. Look under HOT TOPICS on the TEA homepage.

SECURITY UPDATE

Missing booklets reports received by numerous districts--discuss the goal of this process

Walter Sherwood from Pearson stated that the missing test materials were not part of a preliminary scan, but that Pearson reported the missing items after all materials from the districts had been returned. Several districts reported that they could prove that they had returned all of the test materials and that it was Pearson error.

Lisa Chandler stated that TEA is strengthening security procedures and that there will be more follow up procedures at Pearson in the future.

Caveon Test Security report discussion- Covered by Commissioner Neeley at the beginning of the teleconference

Is there a way that districts could monitor and/or access the status of their incident reports throughout the year to avoid calling TEA and Pearson so much?

Lisa Chandler stated that TEA is trying to enhance the security database so that districts could monitor the progress. TEA is working on it.

NAEP IN 2007

Update of this project and scope of Texas involvement

Cathy Kline stated that additional campuses were added to the list that had been previously distributed by her last spring. The changes occurred without her knowledge. She stated that 218 districts were selected and 582 campuses will participate with 56 campuses of 12th graders, 230 campuses of 8th graders and 296 campuses of 4th graders.

TIME RAN OUT AT THIS POINT... TELECONFERENCE ENDED HERE.

PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES/REWARDS

Could TEA provide guidance about what is acceptable and what is not since some districts are doing various activities and providing rewards that we thought were prohibited?

NOT COVERED BECAUSE TIME RAN OUT

COMMISSIONER'S RULES ON TESTING TRAINING

Explanation of the goal/purpose of this set of rules posted in the Texas Register

NOT COVERED BECAUSE TIME RAN OUT

PEARSON SECTION – Walter Sherwood and Pearson Staff –Covered out of order

Updates related to communication concerns, i.e., phone system

Walter stated that common platforms for technology will be used in the future. He admitted that there were problems with TOP, but they are working on it so that it does not happen in the future.

Records changes—it takes a long time to get new labels for Exit Level changes. To facilitate this process, could we get a file and upload this?

Terri Fish from Pearson stated that they are cleaning up spring records and that the process is at the end of their window and districts should get corrections soon. Terri said that the possibility of an electronic file could happen, but that we would only get it a week before we get labels.

Preliminary rosters posted online need summary data so that, at the district level, we don't have to do a 'hand count' to produce district-level reports for campuses.

Mariana Vassileva stated that optional reports are available except for SSI grade levels. Several participants asked for a district level aggregate. Mariana asked for feedback on this issue from districts, so if you would like a district aggregate report contact Mariana at TEA.

Is there a way to download the entire district set of rosters/files at one time instead of having to click through a list of campuses one-by-one?

Terri Fish stated that she has a group investigating other ways to accomplish the task. Zipping the files into a district folder at NCS Schoolhouse was one suggestion.

Is there a way to get some booklet cover design changes that would help districts and campuses keep the EXIT Primary and Re-tests separated since this is very confusing.

Terri Fish stated that she was aware of the problem with the two separate shipments of books, the similar color and separate ranges of book numbers for the April TAKS retest administration. It was suggested that the color be different or placing the words "RETEST" on the covers of the test booklets. Lisa Chandler said she would look into the matter.

Is there a way to consider having one TAKS-I answer document, especially for Grades 10 and Exit, instead of one for each test?

Terri Fish said that Pearson is looking into the option and that it is under consideration.

OTHER TOPICS IF TIME PERMITS