

**Minutes**  
**Texas State Network of Assessment Professionals (TSNAP) Teleconference**  
**September 8, 2005**

**Roll Call – Steve Peterson**

**TSNAP Issues – Keith Haffey, 2005 TSNAP President**

- **New District Coordinator Academy** – September 20 and 21 in Austin
  - Function of Pearson, TEA and TSNAP
  - New session for “somewhat experienced - not so new” district coordinators - September 19
  - Registration - Terri Fish
    - September 19 session – at capacity; only one per district
    - September 20 session – less than 10 slots left
    - September 21 session – about 14 slots left
    - September 9 - Registration closes
    - September 12 – will send confirmation e-mails for all 3 days
      - If no e-mail address was provided, we need it to send a confirmation
  - Thanks to Terri for handling registration
- **Texas Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development - October 16-18 - in Houston**
- **Effective Schools Conference, October 12-14 in Houston**
  - Larry Lezotte
- **Change in TSNAP leadership**
  - Vice President, Gloria Zyskowski, has moved to TEA
- **Next teleconference** - November 3, 1:00-4:00p.m.
- **Legislative update** – Sandra Poth
  - SBOE September meeting
    - September meeting has been moved to September 29-30 to accommodate activities within TEA and other agencies with reference to hurricane relief efforts
    - Gr. 8 Science passing standard
      - Will be entertaining the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Gr. 8 Science TAKS passing standard
      - July - 1<sup>st</sup> reading - 10/5 in favor of a phase in standard
      - Will be part of the Texas state accountability system
      - September - 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - if vote shifts may be at panel recommendation in the spring
        - Need testimony from those in the know about the need to phase the standard in
      - Victoria Young – clarification
        - E-mail this morning
          - Meeting at end of September not an absolute – will be cancelled or postponed
          - No decision yet
          - If cancelled, the assessment item will move to November
      - S. Poth - If moved to November, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will be in November
    - SDAA II released tests
      - Legislature ended with 2 special sessions with no law that impacts the released test law from 2003; no released tests in 2005
      - David Anderson of TEA released an opinion that SDAA II would come under the SBOE’s purview to reconsider the released test list, and they could agree to bring it to 1<sup>st</sup> reading (whenever that meeting is) to release the SDAA II test items from 2005 first administration.
      - 1<sup>st</sup> reading November or 2<sup>nd</sup> reading February
      - Doesn’t qualify for an emergency measure; so we’ll go thru the regular process
      - V. Young – clarification
        - Emergency passage of the released items might be able to be accomplished in November with just one reading if September meeting is cancelled.

- Might need to get a legal opinion

### Follow-up items from June TETN - Keith Haffey, TSNAP President 2005

- **TEA Assessment Division update** - Victoria Young
  - Reorganization of the division
    - Developed 3 basic strands of the assessment division
    - V. Young – Director of TAKS Assessment Instructional Coordination
    - Cari Wieland – Director of Special Education Assessment
    - Laura Ayala – Director of ELL Assessment
    - Analysis and Reporting group has remained intact
    - G. Zyskowski - Director of Test Administration
    - Julie Jary – Director of Policy and Operations
    - Layer of Managers under the Directors; more layered than previously
- **Testing materials** - Terri Fish
  - ESCs as materials distribution sites
    - Don't want to put in the plan at this point
    - Lot of issues including security
    - New ordering system this fall should take care of that
  - Shipping during spring break
    - Haven't moved on this – nothing to report
    - Know there are problems
    - Large Print/Braille
      - Allowed to order large print on enrollment forms for SDAA II and TAKS
      - Don't have a final solution
      - K. Haffey – Last year there was an issue of those coming in with regular shipment; will that happen this year?
        - Large print – yes
        - Braille – no; separate shipment because of a separate order form
  - Return of scorable off-campus materials
    - Referring to JJAEP or other alternative campuses
    - Pilot last year with a separate ADPL and shipment
    - Will talk with Gloria Zyskowski for this spring
  - Exit level and multiple administration historical records correction
    - Reporting group and Pearson trying to come up with a system
    - Will communicate the plan as soon as we have one
    - S. Poth for Joe Orr – Remind everyone that when we do an exit level correction, it appears to the system that we've made all of the corrections; but only the first correction takes. Could continue to have an error. Can there be a button "Have you completed this change?" "Yes" - saved as such. "No" - can add.
    - T. Fish: will take it back to the group
  - Letter to Superintendent and Testing Coordinator about mailing information on file with us
    - Really important to check this information and make necessary changes, especially e-mail addresses and telephone numbers
    - Will send messages via e-mail
    - Will also post these messages on the Pearson website – "Communications to Districts" tab
  - Change in packing materials
    - Communication coming in September 19 outlining these changes
    - Will be posted on website
    - Online enrollment updates only – **no** faxes
  - Even if you don't need to update materials, respond to request
  - SDAA II – enrollment form
    - **No** enrollment form, **No** materials - will be shipped to you bulk
    - No date for the form; usually mid-late September
    - Waiting on information on how to count Katrina kids; we will include it on the form

- Debbie Stevenson – Have you considered precoded header sheets in district overage for alternative campuses?
  - T. Fish - Something we can talk about; I'll call you and talk with you about it; not sure how widespread it is
  
- **Additions to the District and Campus Coordinator Manual for large print and telecommunications devices** - David Bradford, Manager of the Manual Team
  - Draft of manual inhouse now; many of your concerns are being added
  - Telecommunications devices - specific information about this in security section
  - K. Haffey – reviewed issue of large print last year (ordered “just in case”)
  - D. Bradford – some ordered braille and large print “just in case”
    - Will move in that direction for large print
    - Must be documented as a daily accommodation
    - Issues with shipments as well
    - K. Haffey – are you saying that the order will be student by student?
    - D. Bradford – not that formal; just for kids who need it
    - S. Poth – as an allowable accommodation, there might be a number of regular education kids who are provided this well - suggestion
    - K. Haffey – anticipated release of manual to school districts date?
      - D. Bradford - for ESC training in December; may be on the web before then
  
- Writing scores on labels for Gr. 10 and Exit level - Victoria Young
  - Putting writing scores is extremely problematic because no objective information is printed on labels, calls for re-programming
  - Label already crowded
  - Higher Education Coordinating Board working on a letter to colleges
  - Colleges want to know if kids exempt from THEA.
  - If student meets it, there is a number and a note; also made a 3 or 4 on composition
  - Will spell this out in the letter; should be a better and broader understanding
  
- SSI and 5<sup>th</sup> grade math
  - Late reporting and GPC requirements - Janet Borel
    - 2005 the first year to face this; GPC convenes when school is out already; any change?
    - V. Young – know the problem. Several years ago when we were thinking about the Gr. 5 math test we did a survey at the assessment conference. Give the test at the same time as reading or later? Overwhelming support for early April. Problem is that we must have 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> administrations later. Must have time for interventions so you have time for opportunity to learn. Maybe we need to poll schools to see how they dealt with it. Find out the strategies schools are using. Don't know how to make it easier.
    - K. Haffey – SSI only Gr. 3 in the beginning. Timeline not impacted by the reporting cycle.
      - Maybe we could look at scale scores
      - Makes it hard to comply when we can't find the people we need.
    - V. Young - By law the GPC can't convene until after 2<sup>nd</sup> test.
      - If a student is close to meeting standard, we won't do a preplanning
      - Far away then preplanning
    - K. Haffey – I think this is an issue that is not going away; will be a bigger issue when we add Gr. 8; something has to budge - timeline or law
    - V. Young – Might need to do a further survey; possible to move it up a week. Need to see if there is statewide support. Can look at for 06-07; may have a negative impact on results
    - S. Poth – When we did the survey we focused on instruction. There was no way to know about the timelines for reporting. Have been modifications to the calendar. Maybe if you want to consider a week or 2 difference in time.
    - V. Young – The conference a perfect place to do that.



- G. Zyskowski – lots of differences when you decide what will be reported to TEA among coordinators. We are really working toward a system that will make it standard across the state
  - Cizek Report
    - Greg Cizek from University of North Carolina – wrote a report on student assessment website – Final Report on .....
    - Will put together a work plan for the security team
    - Will want input from districts about that report, concerns
    - E-mail to eric.moore@tea.state.tx.us
- K. Haffey - Gr. 8 science will be part of accountability in 2008
- K. Haffey – dates for fall study – conspicuous absence of information
  - V. Young conspicuous absence of fall study

### **New Items for September – Sandra Poth , TSNAP Past President 2003**

- English Language Learners (ELL) Assessments - Laura Ayala
  - TELPAS audit 2005-2006
    - Some districts want to participate to see how they are doing; focus group supported this; will announce at TOP rater training
    - Audit will be significantly larger than last year
  - LAT survey results and recommendations
    - Survey last year online; 1000 responses; limited to coordinators and test administrators; mixed results
    - No previewing; in lieu of previewing, state will provide a secure linguistic simplification guide
    - Secure test but not live TAKS
    - Test on one day; Monday of testing weeks – calendar change
    - Will not continue LAT process for SDAA II students
      - S. Poth - some districts closed on the Monday after Easter;
    - Go through process of requesting another day
    - Training on LAT in December; districts will turn it around
  - Report from ELL focus group meeting in July
    - Talked about lots of ways to improve the ELL assessments
    - Texas Observation Protocols (TOP) rater training
      - TOP system and how to move forward –
      - Move training to fall of the year; Sept. 29 and 30 in Austin
      - Qualifying component (be trained and qualify)
      - Turn around in districts by November 30 with a qualifying test
      - If pass, no additional training in spring
      - If don't pass, additional training in spring and pass the test
      - If still don't qualify, can be a rater must have another qualified rater rate with them and qualified rater ratings stand
  - Development of RPTE II
    - Last teleconference - talked about the possibility of online assessment
    - Focus group and technical advisory group
    - Delay RPTE II until 2008
    - Field test this spring
      - Embed field test questions in RPTE I
      - Gr. 2 will do separate field test this spring
    - Moving toward online RPTE
    - Research study with Gr. 2 this spring; might be exclusively an online assessment
    - No resolution of computer adaptive RPTE II
  - Information about a shift in the TELPAS window as well as separating spring field testing
    - L. Ayala –

- Calendar change moved TELPAS window starting on Mar. 6 and ending on Mar. 31 in an effort to move it away from Gr. 5 testing first week in April; implement in 06-07 and 05-06
    - Moving field test in first two weeks of window helps to move Gr. 5 field testing away from SSI testing
  
  - Special Education - Cari Wieland
    - USDE Update
      - Hoped to have negotiations finalized by now
      - Hurricane effected so we are delayed by a week or two
      - No definitive time; nothing signed yet; moving forward out of necessity;
      - Negotiating a 3-year plan to address alternate tests;
      - As soon as we get word will get information to you
      - C. Wieland – ARD manual (web only) by end of day tomorrow; training thru a series of TETNs; no dates yet
      - K. Haffey - Changes this year?
      - C. WIELAND – will talk to you today; waiting for approval to not implement new assessments until 2007-2008
        - Working on assessment to replace LDAA for severely cognitively disabled; calling in a steering committee September 22
    - Status of SDAA II
      - No dramatic changes since last year; assuming a 3% cap but not finalized
      - Specific accommodations policy change – no longer going to allow copying onto colored paper; will be allowed to copy answer document onto colored paper; use overlays on test booklet; transcribe to real answer document – in ARD manual
        - K. HAFHEY – What about the lower instructional levels? Accommodations group will address tomorrow K,1,2
    - TAKS I (Inclusive) / LDAA
      - Pronounced “**I**”
      - IDEA 2004 requirements for all grades and subjects we currently do not test with SDAA II – not NCLB specifically – have been remiss in the past
        - List of assessment subjects and grades on the letter
      - TAKS I at Exit level - not tied to graduation unless ARD says so
      - Can only take at enrolled grade
      - Broadens alternate assessment possibilities
      - For students working on or close to grade level
      - Have accommodations that excludes from TAKS
      - Does not replace SDAA II
      - Characteristics – from letter
      - Specifications for SDAA II being applied
      - Will allow same expanded accommodations as for SDAA II thru accommodations request process
      - ARD does not set achievement levels. Student must meet TAKS standards.
      - Use in accountability not been decided
      - Administer on TAKS days.
      - No retest opportunities; not tied to graduation – primary administrations only
      - Will be included in ARD manual, supplement, and coordinator manual
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- V. Young – need to define “near grade level”
- C. Wieland – must have been exposed to grade level instruction
- V. Young – must decide on a student by student basis
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- Guiding ARD process for changes
  - Do we go back to ARD?
  - IDEA 2004 allows for flexibility as far as calling ARD meetings “parent of child and LEA to use alternate means such as conference calls”
  - Not necessary to convene to make changes to IEP but need to develop a written document for the amendment

- Must include any accommodations necessary
  - Need an IEP statement of why student can't participate in TAKS and why alternate is appropriate
- Report/Status of Assessment Advisory Committee - Victoria Young
  - No meeting this summer
  - Might need to bring in for Louisiana situation
- H.B. 3297 *Notice of Performance* - Shannon Housson
  - Lots of questions
  - Compiled a list of FAQs we have received; will post this afternoon or tomorrow morning on the Performance Monitoring webpage
  - K. Haffey – One talks about including rating and explanation of the rating system. What kind of flexibility?
  - S. Housson – Doesn't require it be printed on the report card; can be a paper insert; explanatory document; suggest Table 6 in acc manual; summary of each to be used as an insert
  - S. Poth – That means we would not have to have the explanation printed on the report card but should have the rating there?
  - S. Housson – No requirement that the rating be printed; can be an insert
  - Appeal involved? – Annotated “\_\_\_\_\_ pending an appeal”
  - K. Haffey – state rating only? YES
- Enrollment of Louisiana Flood Victim Refugees - Susan Barnes
  - Gr. 12 students and October retesting
    - Nothing definitive now; conversations with Louisiana about their graduation requirements and curriculum
    - Meeting soon on how we are trying to access student data; lots of questions
    - Aware of concerns about Gr. 12; will give Louisiana exam if appropriate
    - What are the issues you see in dealing with the students?
      - K. Haffey – short and long term
      - Students want to graduate on time – our concern is to meet their needs
      - Operating on the honor system as far as credits, grade level, etc.
      - You mentioned looking at Louisiana requirements.
      - Testing is a concern
      - Principals concerned about accountability
    - S. Barnes – accountability – Criss Cloudt and her staff are taking a look at the issues for both state and federal
      - One option is that there may be a way for us to work with Louisiana so that if they are successful this year they can get a Louisiana diploma.
      - Moving ahead with conference calls and conversations
    - K. Haffey – Sense for a timeline or guidance you can give us in preparation for October testing?
      - S. Barnes – Will do our best to give you info as soon as possible
        - We have accessed what's on their website.
        - They have a retest opportunity the week after we have our retest opportunity.
        - I need to know what the issues are.
        - Need to support and work through our own state assessment
        - If we try to support a 2<sup>nd</sup> system - need to think through these issues
        - No policy decision yet – under discussion
    - David Donovan in Beaumont – TEA website requirements for SSI, etc. coming across to parents in a threatening way
    - S. Barnes – Q&A brief discussion about TAKS – right now the safest thing to say is that they are required to take TAKS and move from there
- Online testing update for 2005-2006 - Victoria Young
  - Error on testing calendar: April 19 – TAAS Exit Level Math

- No participation in online testing required this year
- December 5-9 - online administration for TAKS Exit retest - additional opportunity; will get an early roster
- TAKS Accommodations for Students with Dyslexia - Victoria Young
  - Covered in letter; “bundled” accommodations; must use all three
    - Test administrator reads all proper nouns in a passage before the student(s) read the passage
    - Test administrator reads all test items and answer choices
    - Test is administered over two consecutive days– will receive guidance on what to test on Day 1 and on Day 2
  - Limited to TAKS reading gr. 3,4,5 English and Spanish
  - Studying dyslexic students at Gr. 7 and 8 to determine if “bundled” accommodations will be available to high schoolers in spring 2007
  - Eligibility requirements
    - Student must be diagnosed as having dyslexia; **and**
    - Student must be served in one of the following programs: 504, special education; or a campus dyslexia program
  - S. Poth – What if a student is absent Day 1?
  - V. Young – Must test individually or in small group over two consecutive days
    - Science test for Gr. 5 - slide science test back
  - If parent denies services – student not eligible for “bundled” accommodations
- Lisa Cottle – Do we have a 2006-07 assessment calendar?
  - G. Zyskowski – working on finalizing it; no date for posting
- National Comparative Data Study Results - Victoria Young
  - Still going thru approval process; will put on website

## **Final Roll Call**