

# **TSNAP MINUTES**

## **September 20, 2007**

The TSNAP teleconference was called to order by president Martha Vannoy. Martha called on John Thornell, Treasurer, to report on membership and other items. John said membership in TSNAP runs from December Assessment Conference to December Assessment Conference with fees of \$ 25.00. If anyone joins earlier they do not need to resubmit dues in December. The \$25.00 supports the Fall Academies, TSNAP projects and other expenses. There are approximately 500 members in TSNAP.

Martha reported the “Not So New Fall Academy” was held this week with a good turnout. The “New Coordinator’s Academy” will be held next week. Registration for this academy has reached its maximum and there is a waiting list. An evaluation is available for the academies at TSNAP.com.

Gloria Zyskowski, TEA Director of Assessment, reported many members were meeting with the state board and would be coming and going throughout the day’s teleconference. She reported there would be an adjustment in the way communications were sent regarding missing assessment materials. The goal would be to reduce the amount of communication. Letters or emails would not be sent until Pearson has opened and scanned all boxes of materials. Therefore, notification of missing materials will come after a longer time from the actual test administration. Investigation of missing materials would still occur at district and campus level with documentation of accounting for the materials. She praised districts for the highest level of materials resolution rate ever which occurred at the same time when more materials were shipped than any past history. Gloria also responded to a question from the field that there is not a current plan to notify a district when they have no missing materials. District may still hear from TEA regarding missing materials from the 2007 April and May administrations as late as early October.

Dr. Zyskowski went on to report that current staffing has not allowed for the closing out of all incident reports that have been submitted at this time. The goal for the security team is to close out all reports by the end of September. She also discussed 08-09 and 09-10 draft state assessment calendars have been posted for public comment.

Terri Fish reported about the enrollment package for all assessment. The enrollment package should be online or out in districts by Friday, September 21, 2007. A letter regarding Braille assessments should go out by late October. If districts need information regarding the Student Information Retrieval System they should call Nancy Mendoza at 800-627-0365 Extension 6475.

Shannon Houssen reported about state and federal accountability information. There is a powerpoint presentation at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/resources/index.html> regarding 2008 accountability. Shannon said that standard setting for TAKS M would not occur until later in the summer. He also discussed the 3% cap for TAKS Alt and

TAKS M. At this point in time, it has not been decided how the exceeders to the 3% cap will be appropriated among campuses. The 3% applies to district level. Currently, there is not as much guidance provided as there was when SDAA II was available. At that time, students who had the widest disparity between enrolled grade level and tested grade level were counted in the cap first. Since TAKS M will be at grade level this determination has not been made at this time.

Cari Weyland presented information regarding special education assessment. All powerpoints that were used at the academy are posted at the TSNAP.com website. Cari said her department is still currently working on the accommodations manual. There will be specific training regarding the manual via a TETN. The date for the TETN will be posted at a later time. Cari also said there is an accommodations request form that will be available online, or by paper, which is also a forthcoming project.

A powerpoint on the TSNAP website which addresses policy decisions regarding calculators and spell check has been posted. The basic policy states that:

Calculators:

- TAKS No changes to policies
- TAKS (Accommodated) Calculators at grades 7 and up through ARF (Accommodations Request Form)
- TAKS-M Calculators at all grades; Grades 3-6 requires ARF

Spell Check:

- TAKS No changes to policies
- TAKS (Accommodated) Spell check at grades 7 and up through ARF
- TAKS-M Spell check at all grades; Grade 4 requires ARF

Cari also discussed math charts and stated that multiplication charts must be a tool and not a source of direct answers.

ARD manuals will be posted in October and will be only online. They will still include flow charts, rosters and updated student scenarios.

In response to a question from the field, Cari stated that 504 Students are not eligible for TAKS A. She also said that the dyslexia bundled accommodations are available for TAKS and TAKS-A, but are not allowed for TAKS M. If ARD committees set assessment requirements for a student who was classified as a junior in 2007 and took the TAKS-I, but were not successful, the committee would need to reconvene to address the issue. LDAA's are still an option for the exit level retest in October, however, this would be the last time. Students taking TAKS and TAKS-A may be tested together.

Cari also discussed the TAKS-M field test and said the pre-code list is not exhaustive. There could also be students listed that will not take the field test. There are no SSI requirements because no standards have yet been set. The TAKS-M operational test will not be released, however, representative items from every subject and grade prior to spring will be released.

The TAKS-Alt assessment will become available to teachers on October 1. Additional information has been posted at the “Assessment of Students with Disabilities” powerpoint at [www. Tsnap.com](http://www.Tsnap.com)

Terri Fish from Pearson discussed enrollment and pre-coding. She said the calendar of events for Pearson would be posted soon. She discussed pre-code labels and test booklets.