

MINUTES

T-SNAP TELECONFERENCE AGENDA February 7, 2008 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.



T-SNAP MATTERS

2007 Texas Assessment Conference –

Survey Results/Comments- Stacy Daugherty, Galena Park ISD

- Stacy reported that the responses to the assessment conference survey were up by almost 50%. The responses and comments provide have been forwarded on to the planning committee and will be taken into account when they make arrangements for the 2008 conference. She also shared information regarding individual results for a specific preconference or concurrent session. If you are interesting in obtaining these results, please contact Stacy directly and she will email them to you. General results will be posted on the TSNAP website.

Planning Committee Update- Sandra Poth, Northside ISD

- Sandra shared that the planning committee has met twice and began the arduous task of making arrangements for 2008. She report that the attendance at the conference had increased significantly and the committee was making plans to accommodate everyone.

Memberships & New Regional Groups- John Thornell, Hays ISD

- John reported that current membership was up

TSNAP Website Update- Joe Orr, Northside ISD

Other Business

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH TEA AND PEARSON STAFF

March Calendar Change- (Gloria Zyskowski and Cathy Cline)

- They indicated that no plans were being made to make changes to the testing calendar for the April 8th Primary run-off election. If districts need to make arrangements they need to individually contact TEA.
- They noted that the calendar of events on the Pearson website has been updated to reflect the March 4th testing date change. The changes have been made in red font. The dates to return scorable materials has been pushed back 1 day and the dates to return non-scorable materials has been pushed back 3 days. They indicated that Pearson would understand if non-scorable materials arrived after spring break.
- A question from the field was asked concerning a conflict with a student taking the April 29th LAT reading and regular math TAKS. Cathy indicated that the district should contact TEA and they would make arrangements with this district.

Test Materials- (Gloria Zyskowski and Cathy Cline)

- They indicated that they do not anticipate additional material orders arriving after the deadline. They said that orders for additional secure materials will not ship until after the initial shipment of secure materials is out. We were reminded that all manuals were non-secure except for LSG for LAT testing.
- We were told that the although the advanced packing list that is available online does not indicate a count of form 1 books, that it will begin with the April administrations this spring.

- When you completed your enrollment Pearson looked at the dyslexia numbers and the oral administration numbers to determine how many form 1 books to send a district. They sent the larger of the two numbers plus some overage.

Security- (Gloria Zyskowski)

- Gloria told us first of all that the TEA test monitors were not being handled out of the student assessment division, but out of the office of inspector general. She recommended that if we had specific questions that we contact that office. She did indicate that the people that would be the monitors would be trained and would have a procedures manual. They would be trained using the various checklists from the DCCM and the security supplement. She did not know if districts would have access to the procedures manual that the monitors would be using. Gloria did state that the monitors would contact the superintendent and the district test coordinator notifying them that they would be coming. She said that they would have a state of Texas badge with a photo id. She also indicated that there was an expectation that they actually observe the test administration. She said that student assessment has been adamant that monitors have to be trained and that they will sign an oath. She also said she did not know how many or what percent of the state would be picked to be monitored. She did say that all monitors will go through background checks at the state level.

Accountability (Shannon Housen)

- The ELL indicator is currently published in the AEIS report. In the 2007 accountability manual (preview section) stated that the ELL measure will be used in the accountability system at the earliest in 2009. TEA will show the 2008 committee the data and discuss whether the link between RPTE and TELPAS Reading can be made. They will talk about it being a separate indicator like SDAA was or if they will fold it in.
- John Thornell asked a question about DAEP accountability and Shannon said that he would have to get back with him. He knew about some correspondence that had come out, but did not have an answer for him. Shannon said that the accountability of DAEP came from another division at TEA.
- A question was asked regarding paper vs. online testing for TELPAS reading and what would happen if the data did not match. Marianna said they are working on a process whereby TEA could notify districts of students who did not match and allow the districts to fix it before the data file was sent to the Performance reporting division.
- Shannon told us the timeline for the 2008 accountability decisions. He said that the select accountability group will meeting on Feb 18. He also told us that a letter was coming out regarding different options that TEA was proposing to calculate the federal cap exceders. The letter actually came out yesterday and can be found at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ayp/2008/fed_cap.pdf . TEA is soliciting input from educators through March 24. He also told us that Feb 15th was the date which TEA had to submit amendments to the state workbook to USDE. He said they would post the document on the TEA website. The big issue is asking USDE to delay AYP results until Oct 8. Final decisions should be posted in early April.

Assessment of Special Education Students (Maria Bricker)

1. Accommodations Request Form

- Maria said that March requests were being processed first. She indicated that they are almost caught up. If you have not heard about a request you submitted you should call and they would look for it. She said they are adding additional fax machines. You still fax to the same number, but the faxes are being divided up among several machines. If you have a large volume of requests you can send through US Mail. Laura Witte encouraged district coordinators to read and reject ARFs if needed at the district level before submitting to TEA. Both Sandra Poth and Laura Witte shared the process by which they are using in their districts to process ARFs. Mark Billingsley and Sandra Poth praised the PowerPoint that TEA had shared showing what is allowable and non-allowable for accommodations.

2. Accommodation Manual Clarification

- Maria clarified that a scribe is someone who writes for a student with the understanding that the student knows the appropriate site words for a particular grade level. Once the scribe has completed the composition, the student must be allowed to put in punctuation, capitalization and add more descriptive words.
- Maria also clarified that the manual is indented to provide information about accommodations for both special education and regular education students. She said if there is a checkmark under TAKS then it is allowable for all students unless it specifically state that there are eligibility requirements. She said TEA would revise the manual to make it clear about regular education students.
- She also said that we do need to bubble accommodations for all students even if they are regular education students.
- She said that TEA is hoping if a student has an accommodation in the IEP that they will indeed use it on the day of testing. TEA is asking that we bubble what the student “uses” on the day of testing.
- Highlighters will be addressed at the next Sped TETN
- Speech only students are not restricted to certain tests because that is qualifying condition. She said that you need objective evidence, but it would be appropriate for a student to take a test other than TAKS.

3. TAKS-Accommodated

- Maria told us that TAKS-Accommodated does have specific directions and proper noun list for students using the dyslexia bundle accommodation.

End of Course – (Gloria and Marianna)

- They are looking into the possibility of producing summary reports for operational EOCs. They stated Algebra I would be easier because it is an existing EOC. They said if they only have to provide the reports online and we are willing to wait until early summer that it is more likely to occur. They said “yes” to a data file for EOC. They said the reports would be similar to the old EOC reports and not similar to current TAKS reports. They said that objective level data would be provided. Marianna agreed to think about releasing the SE information for the items.
- Gloria stressed that they need people to serve on committees. Keith Haffey said that districts have to bear some of the burden both financially because TEA does not provide enough funds to cover the cost of a sub and also because they loose the instructional time of a good teacher.

TELPAS-

- Data file will be loaded into Test Nav or they will accept files.
- 2 year retention time for writing samples in student’s cumulative folders

Data File Layout – (Marianna)

- Her goal is to post the layout by Feb 15. She did indicate that we would receive a new data file after the TAKS-M standards have been set.
- There are no plans at this time to provide SE information in the data file. Someone from the field strongly encourage that TEA consider adding this information.

OTHER TOPICS IF TIME PERMITS

- No update on TAKS-Accommodated commissioner’s rules regarding graduation. Gloria stated that she would look into it.
- Release timeline for tests must be approved by State Board. Looking now at providing them with different options.