

Student Assessment - TETN – June 12, 2008

TSNAP Items

- New Coordinators Academy – September 9th or 10th at Pearson Facility in Austin
- Not So New Coordinators Academy – September 24th at Pearson Facility in Austin
- Best Practices Forum – September 19th at Northside ISD Activity Center in San Antonio
- Sandra Poth shared that the planning for the annual Assessment Conference was well underway. She said the committee was working on reviewing all of the sessions that had been submitted.
- Joe Orr shared that there will be a new website look in the fall. He told everyone that an email went out June 6th about the teleconference. If you did not get it contact Joe. It might be that your district is blocking the email.

Online Testing –

Gloria Zyskowski reminded us that a survey was going to be conducted to determine their readiness for online testing. The survey is mandatory (participation required). It will be online and will be available June 30-September 1. The letter will go out the first part of next week address to superintendents and district testing coordinators. It announces the time lines and gives a little more details about the survey. Pearson will be conducting the survey.

Another source of information will be obtained through a series of case studies. Between six to eight school districts will be selected and Pearson will be conducting a study. The districts have not been determined yet, but they will be a representative sample – urban, rural, and suburban. Not picking people who have already done online testing. The responses to the survey are due to the legislature on Dec 1st. It will become public when it is presented to the legislature.

(Lee Ann Weddell from Pearson) – she was responding to the question asking for ways to help train people in districts to get ready. The resources page is an excellent place to start. They continue to make improvements and post new documents. The training modules are also very helpful. Best practices for deployment – geared to technology folks. It has diagrams and helps with infrastructure questions with pros and cons to help you decide what will work best for your district. The student tools are also helpful to allow students to tryout the tools and the feel of the system before the day of the test. There is also one for TELPAS students as well as a released RPTE that can be scored. There are also guides and knowing how the site works. There is also a set of “quick” guides. They also post all of the getting started letter and the specific materials as the test window approaches. There is also a test site where you can practice a dry run with pretend students and simulate a testing situation. There is a technical support group in Austin (hardware, set-up, infrastructure). They are also willing to set up a conference call between their technology folks and your districts technology department.

Suggestion made from Region 13 – technology diagnostic tool so you could go to a machine and pre-test it to see if it is truly ready for online testing. Lee Ann said she would bring it back to the group. She said they are always looking for ways to make improvement.

Security and changes for next year – (Cathy Kline) – No major changes are planned in test security. They plan on expanding the security statement to TAKS-M and TELPAS for grades 9-12. She asked the group to provide her with any questions or problems that we saw with this proposal. A comment from Region 20 was that we should do it at every grade. Kathy responded saying they don't plan on ever including all students but to keep it with the higher grades. Region 13 asked if there were more incident reports this year than in the past. Cathy said that there was an increase. March administration saw a lot of confusion between TAKS and TAKS-Accommodated. She suggested that more monitoring is going on and that there are also lots of reason why they are up. Region 13 asked for more guidance in what should be reported and what should not – maybe a list of things that should be reported and things that do not need to be. She made a note of the suggestion. Cathy asked about how the seating chart went. Region 20 said they implemented seating charts the year before so most people were fine with the new requirement. Region 13 mentioned that the standard form from TEA did not have the grade level and it might be good to add it.

Test Materials (manuals) – in 2008-2009 the coordinator manual (DCCM) two primary changes (1) the LAT accommodations will be pulled from Appendix F and moved to the Accommodations manual. (2) The TELPAS section will be expanded to include online testing. They are hoping to design it to have all of the TELPAS information in one spot. Another change will be a coordinator manual under development – combining the general guide to online testing with new material that will cover TAKS Exit level and EOC as well as EOC paper administration of World Geography. They will ship these in December. There is a new model in mind with test administrator manuals. General Test administrator manual that will contain the shared general information overview, calendar, security and TA responsibilities with expanded score code information and appendix with Braille, large print and an accommodation chart. In addition there will be nine TADs (Test Administrator Directions). These will contain the grade specific information that the TA needs on test day. This new model will have 36% fewer pages that will need to be review. They will have one manual that will be made available earlier (in January). They will then send only 1 set of the TADs to cut down on the number of manuals that are produced and sent out. The suggestion was made to have two oaths. One is in general manual (part 1) and one in the TAD (part 2). Cathy said no decision has been made concerning the oath. Region 9 asked if the number of manuals would be uped and if the DCCM can be up any earlier. Cathy said they will try and make sure that districts get what they need. Region 13 asked if the directions could be shortened and not have to read so much. The students are really bucking how long they are and how many times they have heard them. The standardization process calls that all students hear the exact same thing. Cathy did say they are trying to streamline the directions. Region 11 had a question – hard copy of the accommodations manual will be received in December, but online maybe earlier? Cathy told her to ask Cari later. Region 1 asked if the training could match the manuals – one general training over the first manual and then a specific training for the test. Cathy said it was a good question and they would think about it.

State Monitors – (Gloria Zyskowski) – she reminded us that it does not fall under Student Assessment division, but she asked for updates from the division responsible for the monitors. The March and April administration 204 districts were monitored. Of these the reports are still be reviewed. 171 have been considered cleared. The remaining districts are going under a

second tiered review. This is for districts where the monitor observed some activities that they were concerned about. Student Assessment is getting involved to determine the level of the incidents observed. No reports have been shared with districts. The reports will not be mailed. All that districts will receive is a letter (all issued at the same time). The letter will indicate if the district is cleared or an indication of further action such as a referral to SBEC. They are trying to mirror the way that Student Assessment deals with reported incidents. Gloria asked if anyone had questions. Region 20 asked about the timing of the letters – will districts know before the July testing. Gloria says she does not know, the division is trying to get them cleared up as soon as possible but did not know of any time line. She said that she would remind them about the July testing. Region 20 also asked if the monitor did not point out something is it is fair assumption that they are okay? Gloria said that the monitors varied greatly in the ways that they interacted with the districts so it is not safe because some monitors did not share what they were observing. Gloria did have some input on the training and they said if there was something egregious that the monitor needed to report it to Student Assessment at the time it was observed. Another question was asked if the districts that were not monitored could receive any information to help learn from the experience. Gloria can't say for sure, but she thought that there might be a press release once the information is public. Region 16 asked how it was supposed to work when a monitored came, did the district test coordinator go with the monitor to the campuses? Gloria said that they told the monitors that the district coordinators were very busy and they may not be available to walk them around. Region 20 suggested that a session presented by the division responsible for this activity could be presented at the assessment conference. Region 10 suggested that the letter needed to be written that cleared does not mean that they saw something and it was cleared, but that they saw nothing. Brownsville asked if there would be anything like the Caveon report on the 2008 data. Gloria said they did not run that type of analysis, but as part of the 14 point plan will pursue using some methodology similar but that it would be transparent and replicable by district. Nothing is in place yet so she thinks nothing will be done on the 2008 data. She anticipates that something will be run on the 2009 data.

Assessment of Special Education Students (Cari Wieland)

- Accommodations Request Form – the data collection hopefully was worthwhile. They are making policy decisions to lessen the need for ARFs. For instance calculators for TAKS-M with no ARF. Providing samples of multiplication charts so district don't have to request. The online system will also go live next year. Stacy Daugherty (Galena Park ISD) shared her experience with testing the new online submission system. Several questions arose concerning whether or not it would be the district testing coordinator who had to approve the requests or if that task could be delegated. A district asked how long they needed to keep the ARFs – Cari said it does not fall under the 5 year test material rule and that she felt that decision was a local policy decision.
- Accommodations Manual – hope to post the 08-09 version in September. They are trying to make things more standardized. They will add the language back to make it clear that some accommodations are available to any student (not just sped). They will have groups of teachers and testing people review the manual. Sandra suggested that this be another session presented at the assessment conference.

- TAKS-Alt Reports – districts asked if they could get reports that were more customized for their needs. Region 13 asked if there was a way to get a district report without having to go to the system. Cari said she would take this back and look into it.
- TAKS-Alt peer review – there will need to be changes made to the system. They are currently meeting with Texas educators and things look good. They will be standardizing the activities that students are doing so there is not as much teacher choice. There are service center and district trainings this summer on helping teachers create activities. She suggested that we put that on hold because TEA is going to be helping with that in the fall. Tremendous amount of activity that TEA is having to do based on the peer-review. There will be some major changes to the system. However they are still finalizing the changes. They just want to make sure that this summer we don't do training that is for not. If you have trainings for this summer, it would be a good idea to call and make sure that it is okay. Brownsville asked about a training in September...is that too early? Cari said that she was very confident that by September all districts would have the information that they need to proceed training. They hope to have it in late August.

July testing question – what do you do with a precode for a student who met the requirements with ARD. Submit with an “X” score code.

Accountability – (Shannon Housson) – He shared several important upcoming dates

- Wednesday June 18th is the release date of the completion and drop out lists.
- Thursday, July 10th is the deadline to modify your campus sort list.
- Thursday, July 17th – release of preview data tables for state accountability ratings.
- Public release on August 1st.
- Power point from the ESC accountability group will be on TEAs site.
- USDE has approved a late release of AYP. October 8th is the public release date.

In responding to the question concerning replicating the accountability subset, Shannon was not really sure if it was concerning the state or federal subset. He did say that TEASE will have the student data files showing which students are included in the All of the accountability manual has been posted. He also said that Appendix D “data sources” describes different scenarios about mobile students. Region 13 had a question concerning the TAKS Progress indicator. Shannon suggested you use the formulas in the accountability manual. He went on to say that if you could not get your numbers to match to call him.

EOC – (Julie Guthrie) – How did the field testing go? In general it went really well. The call volume was down 75,000 kids took the field test and about 130,000 took the operational tests. Standards setting – right now the only test is Algebra I. The standards were set in Nov 2005 before the executive order and SB 1031. If standards were set now it would be set in a low stakes environment and only about 13% participation rate currently. There are no specific plans to as to when they will set the standards. In 2008 the operational tests reports. In July there will be data files available for operational assessments. Include student level performance data and for Algebra I only they will provide met standard and commended. Also in July for Algebra I they will have summary reports for campus, district, region and state. They are considering additional reports in 2009. Field test physics and world geography. The world geography will be testing online and on paper. Paper test is available because in 2011-2012 TEA realizes that

they might have to offer paper in addition to online. They are going to do a comparability study with World Geography next spring.

TELPAS (John Cernahaus) – this past spring 315,000 students tested online which far exceeded their recommended two-thirds. Based on the input from the advisory groups, they will only have online tests. The window will be extended March 9- April 10. There will be paper for large print and extenuating circumstance for students who are in jail or others who can. The paper instructions will not be in the manual. There will be a consolidated on manual. Coordinator manual, test administrator manual, and online manual. No test booklets will be sent. The holistically rated elements will be collected online. You will submit a precode file in the same manner as you did this year. The e-measurement system will collect the HR. There will be a pilot in the fall to test this system. There will be no more LMS user guides. They have heard you want less manuals and they are trying to do it. Audit (small) 2000 students 500 campuses 100 districts. Listening speaking audit 50 state authorized trainers went into classrooms and rated 150 students. They have not looked at the data, but if it looks good they will implement it on the same scale as the writing audit. An audit survey will also be collected. You have to get permission to give a paper test. Region IV asked if there would be a safeguard built into the system so teachers would be reminded if they skipped a rating. John said there will be a list showing all students and if a rating is missing it will appear grey or shaded. He also said that the submit button will not be active until all ratings have been finished. The online component should be part of the HR qualification training. Region 7 asked when they get results from their audit. John said that there are not individual results, but state level. Teachers will have two log-ins one for LMS and one for e-measurement.

Reporting (Paul Matzen) – online viewing of scores this summer in the history section it will tell you what test the student took. The TAKS-M students will not be loaded until the standards have set this summer.

Region 11 asked when the sample answer documents for the July administration would be posted and Paul responded by saying that he thought they were already up.