

November 15, 2006

TO: THE DISTRICT TESTING COORDINATOR ADDRESSED:

RE: Spring 2007 Administrations—Online Testing Opportunities in Grades 7–10 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), Algebra I End-of-Course Exam and Exit Level TAKS

The Texas assessment program continues to expand opportunities for voluntary online testing in the 2006–2007 school year. Upcoming online administrations include TAKS grades 7–10, the Algebra I End-of-Course exam and TAKS exit level retests during the spring and summer 2007 timeframe (testing dates provided in table below).

TAKS Online Administrations

- Within the designated testing windows, districts may choose to place individual students in any combination of online and paper testing that best meets the needs of students and the district.
- Districts may administer online tests in one or more of the TAKS subject areas on any day during a testing window.
- Districts will continue to receive paper test booklets and precoded answer documents for all students that test online.
- Pearson Educational Measurement (PEM) will enroll all eligible students into the online system, **so it will not be necessary for districts to submit an additional student data file to participate online.**
- Results for students who test online in any TAKS subject area will serve as their TAKS results for those subject areas. All results for students taking TAKS online will be merged and reported with paper testing results.
- Statistical analyses will be used to ensure that testing online does not advantage or disadvantage students.

The table below identifies the TAKS online administration testing dates, testing windows, and registration deadlines. To register, see "[Registration Information for Upcoming Online Administrations.](#)"

	Testing Dates	Registration Deadlines
Grade 9 Reading	February 20, 2007 (same day as paper)	January 31, 2007
Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA)		
Grade 7 Mathematics	April 9-13, 2007 (the week prior to the TAKS paper tests)	March 19, 2007
Grade 7 Reading		
Grade 8 Mathematics		
Grade 8 Reading		
Grade 8 Science		
Grade 8 Social Studies		
Grade 9 Mathematics		
Grade 10 Mathematics		
Grade 10 Science		
Grade 10 Social Studies		
Exit Level Retest English Language Arts (ELA)	July 10, 2007 (same day as paper)	June 15, 2007
Exit Level Retest Mathematics	July 11, 2007 (same day as paper)	
Exit Level Retest Science	July 12, 2007 (same day as paper)	
Exit Level Retest Social Studies	July 13, 2007 (same day as paper)	

Algebra I End-of-Course (EOC)

- The Algebra I End-of-Course exam will be offered **online only** on an optional basis for students completing Algebra I coursework in the spring semester. A traditional paper test will not be offered.
- Districts may administer the Algebra I EOC exam anytime during the three-week period of May 7–25, 2007.
- Voluntarily administering the examinations to students completing an Algebra I course will not affect a district's accountability rating.
- Districts will need to supply student enrollment files to Pearson Educational Measurement. Information on supplying student enrollment files will be provided upon district registration for the examination.

The table below identifies the Algebra I EOC exam testing window and registration deadline. To register, see "Registration Information for Upcoming Online Administrations" below.

Algebra I End-of-Course (EOC)	May 7–25, 2007	April 13, 2007
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Registration Information for Upcoming Online Administrations

If campuses in your district are interested in the online version of any administration listed above, please have your district testing coordinator register your district by navigating to the link below and completing the registration survey.

<http://k12testing.tx.ncspearson.com/OLRegistration.htm>

After each registration deadline closes, additional details will be sent from Pearson Online Testing via e-mail to the district testing coordinator of participating districts.

Upcoming Training Opportunities and Additional Training Information

In response to district requests for additional online training opportunities, the following training opportunities are being offered in November and December 2006:

- TETN entitled "Texas Online Testing Software Walk-Through" on December 5th, 11:15A.M.–1:15P.M.
Target audience: District and Campus Testing Coordinators
- WebEx entitled "Technical Overview for Texas Online Testing" offered on two different dates and times:
November 20, 9:15A.M.–10:45A.M. or December 6, 10:00A.M.–11:30A.M.
Target audience: District Technology Staff

A registration link for this WebEx can be found on the *Resources* page of the Texas State Assessments website at <http://etestTX.com>.

The *Resources* page also contains a *Training and Tutorials* section in which a self-paced tour of the Texas online testing program can be viewed by clicking on *Texas Online Testing Training Course*. Comprehensive online training materials are available for both students and testing staff.

Technology Requirements for Online Testing

To prepare for online testing, districts will need to evaluate their technology inventory and infrastructure. The chart below identifies the technology requirements and standard configurations necessary to administer an online test.

	Personal Computer (PC)	Macintosh*
Hardware		
Processor	Pentium-based 266MHz PC (400MHz or faster recommended)	33MHz G3 (800Mhz G4 or faster recommended)
Memory	128 MB RAM (256 MB RAM recommended)	128 MB RAM (256 MB RAM recommended)
Software		
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 98 or 2000/XP	Mac OS X 10.3
Browser	Internet Explorer 6.0 or Firefox 1.0.7	Safari 1.3.2 or Firefox 1.0
Common to both PC and Macintosh		
Internet Connection	High speed (DSL, T1, etc.)	
Monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15-inch VGA Color• 16-Bit Color Depth	
Screen Resolution	800 x 600	

Online Resources to Help Assess a School's Technology Readiness

To evaluate a school's computing infrastructure readiness for online testing a web-based wizard is available at <http://etestTX.com>. When at the website, select *Resources* and then *Online Infrastructure Assessment Tool*. The person filling out the online infrastructure assessment should have knowledge of both the workstations and network infrastructure at the school and district level. A step-by-step *Online Infrastructure Assessment User Guide* can also be found on the *Resources* page.

For additional information about online testing, visit the *Resources* link on the Texas State Assessments at <http://etestTX.com>. Direct questions about accessing online resources or online test administration procedures to the Pearson Educational Measurement's Austin Operations Center's Texas Online Team at 800-252-9186 (select option 3). If you have other questions regarding these online administration opportunities, please contact the Texas Education Agency's Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536.

Sincerely,



Walter Sherwood
Vice President, Texas Assessment Program
Pearson Educational Measurement

cc: District Superintendent
Education Service Center Directors and Testing Coordinators