



T-SNAP TELECONFERENCE AGENDA

February 5, 2009

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND PRELIMINARIES – Debbie Sommer, CATS Member
PLEASE turn off cell phones and pagers.

TELECONFERENCE MODERATOR – Mark Billingsley, 2009 T-SNAP President

T-SNAP MATTERS

Membership update – Joe Garrison, T-SNAP Treasurer—currently have 565 members. Membership is down from this time last year.

Web site news (www.tsnap.org) – Joe Orr, T-SNAP Webmaster—Web Reports will indicate the web usage statistics. Regional groups are listed and those with their own websites now have links from the TSNAP site. Members will receive new usernames and passwords to access Member Downloads. Individuals who have not paid their dues will not receive the new username and password until their dues are paid.

2008 Texas Assessment Conference review – Laura Witte, T-SNAP Past President—The evaluations from the conference are currently being reviewed. Mark Billingsley and Stacy Daugherty will be attending the February 10 Planning Committee meeting. The 2009 Texas Assessment Conference is scheduled for December 6-9 and reservations at the Convention Hilton are now being taken.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH TEA STAFF

Transcribing answer documents not filled in during testing—Cathy Kline noted that the language on p 71 of the DCCM might be construed as a conflict. Test administrators should check answer documents for missing answers; but, if only some answers are not bubbled, districts should not request permission to transcribe. Only if an entire test or section is blank will Student Assessment entertain requests to transcribe answers from a test booklet. If a blank answer doc is discovered, a CTC/DTC must obtain permission to view a test booklet for answers. Scorable booklets need not be checked.

Data file format release timeline—No date set at this time.

Re-examining oaths of test security—Cathy reminded everyone that we will have two separate oaths this spring: one for general security and testing procedures and then another for specific test administrations. It was noted that there have been problems keeping both parts of the test administration oath together and suggested that using two separate pieces of paper might be a possible solution. We will use the oaths as they are currently formatted this spring and coordinators are urged to make suggestions for next year.

TETNs

- **Consolidation TETN sessions onto one site on the TEA Student Assessment website**
- **TETN Scheduling**—A calendar is now posted under What's New on the Student Assessment website giving information on upcoming TETN sessions including suggested audience, date, time and topic. This may help educators decide which TETN to view. Additional TETNs will be added to the calendar throughout the spring.

Options for addressing Regional Track Meet conflicts with testing—Many districts have expressed concerns about the conflict between the Regional Track Meet and TAKS testing on May 1. Due to the large number of Alternative Test Date requests, approvals and denials will start being sent to districts at the end of the month rather than waiting until April. It was noted that some test administrators would not be available on May 1 due to their participation in the meets.

TELPAS

- **Requested TEA recommendations for handling student mobility during testing**—Instructions that will accompany the student lists will address this problem. These instructions are to be posted early next week. It may be necessary to contact Pearson should a student move from one district to another during the testing window. A receiving district needs to contact the sending district to determine which domains a student has completed. If a student moves during the window, the sending district should complete the holistic ratings while the receiving district should administer the reading test, unless the student took the reading test prior to moving.
- **Percentage of students being requested for paper/pencil testing and types of requests being approved/not approved**—Requests for paper/pencil tests will be reviewed if a student requires an accommodation that is not available for the online version, there are technical problems during the administration of the reading test, or there are unusual settings for the administration such as DAEP, JJAEP, homebound, shelters, etc. Requests should be specific as to why a paper administration is needed and should include which grade clusters are affected. Two weeks need to be allowed to process the request and an additional week for shipping.

TAKS-Alt

- **Impact of unrecorded/unplanned “support” during observation on outcome**—Pat Otto noted that these will affect the score for the student. The standardized tasks can be personalized with supports, but the supports cannot be a source of direct answers or change the complexity of the task. Teachers should be working on the tasks prior to the test, so they will know which supports are needed for a student. If unplanned supports are needed, a cue must be given first followed by a prompt if the student cannot do the task. Without doing this, the student's score would have to be recorded as “No.” Pat recommended reviewing training Module 2 if anyone needed further clarification.
- **Future training changes for Module 2**—There had been some discussion that Module 2 was more difficult than the other two training modules. It did have more questions in the assessment and appeared to have harder content. Pat reported that there was a 98% passing rate for Module 1; 97% for Module 2; and, 99% for Module 3. It was suggested that a review of the number of times a person had to take the test in order to pass might be warranted. A meeting to review the TAKS-Alt standards will be held on April 17-18 in Austin.

Update on USDA-approved Texas Projection Measure

- **Could we get a glimpse of a mock-up of proposed CSRs showing vertical scale scores and projection indicators?**—Not at this time. The TPM is contingent on the USDE approval of the TAKS-Alt standards. A letter to the superintendent/DTC providing information on the TPM and the vertical scale will go out in April. At that time a sample CSR and FAQ will be posted. Becky McCoy asked if any adjustments would have to be made to the TAKS cut scores this spring in implementing the vertical scale. Gloria indicated that that would probably not happen until spring 2010 and referred those interested to the SBOE minutes. A TETN on the vertical scale will be held on April 3 from 1:00 to 3:00.

EOC Field Testing—Campuses selected for Physics will probably be unable to opt out of the administration due to the small numbers across the state. Gloria noted that it would be best if all of the EOC standards were set by 2012 when the testing program goes into effect. That would mean that the Field Test for English III slated for spring 2012 would need to be moved to 2011. English II is already scheduled for spring 2011 as well as World History. Several expressed concerns over computer capacity to complete these three field tests in one spring. Those wanting an avenue for EOC feedback were directed to email their comments to Student Assessment. Gloria also remarked that there was still a need for additional members to serve on the Item Review Committees for TAKS. Another email may be sent soliciting participants.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH PEARSON STAFF

Suggestion: Make manual orders part of fall enrollment—Paul Matzen stated this might be a possibility as many districts did not receive enough general manuals in the initial shipment. DTCs might have a better idea of exactly how many manuals might be needed as they would have a better handle on the number of oral admins, small groups, etc.

Continued shipping lags with FedEx—Districts expressed concerns about continued split shipments.

Question: Why were elementary schools sent 2009 DCCM Supplements? They appear to only address secondary school issues.—Paul explained that in 2008, the supplement contained TELPAS information and the same procedures were followed this year for distribution of the supplements. In 2010, elementary campuses will not be included in this shipment.

OTHER TOPICS IF TIME PERMITS

Region XX asked for clarification as to how to handle shipping deadline dates that fall prior to the end of make-up testing. Page 65 of the DCCM states that make-up testing is allowed, but page 23 of the Security Supplement states that shipping after a deadline is now a testing incident. Districts were directed to call AOC to receive permission to ship on a date later than the deadline published in the DCCM.