

## T-SNAP TELECONFERENCE AGENDA

June 11, 2009  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND PRELIMINARIES** – Debbie Sommer  
PLEASE turn off cell phones and pagers.

**TELECONFERENCE MODERATOR** – Mark Billingsley, 2009 T-SNAP President

### **T-SNAP MATTERS**

**Welcome MATS East and MATS West**—Director of MATS East is Cindy Carosone and Director of MATS West is Linda Reid

**New Coordinator Academy, Sept. 22 or 23, 2009**—Participants will select 1 day to attend. Attendees will be coordinators that are new to the district testing coordinator position. Academy will be held at Pearson AOC.

**Not So New Coordinator Academy, Sept. 24, 2009**—Attendees will be coordinators that have been in the district testing coordinator position for one or two years. Academy will also be held at Pearson AOC.

**T-SNAP Best Practices Forum- Sept. 18, 2009**—The Forum will be held at ESC Region 13 in Austin and is free for any T-SNAP member whose dues have been paid for the current year. Possible topics for the Forum include “Going Green,” the Vertical Scale and TPM and EOC testing.

**Assessment Conference Planning Committee Update-** Sandra Poth, Northside ISD—Sandra reported that the Conference Steering Committee would be meeting tomorrow and there was still an opportunity for session proposals to be submitted. She thanked Joe Orr for his notice that had gone out notifying everyone that though the deadline for proposal submission had passed, the Steering Committee was still accepting them. If you still wish to submit a proposal, you could email it to Sandra with a title and a short, one sentence summary ASAP. Sandra noted that they needed sessions for small and/or medium districts and suggested that groups might get together and present a collaborative session.

Sandra reported that the Hilton is requiring a non-refundable 1-night deposit when you call to make reservations. The deposit will be collected at the time the reservations are made. She noted that she hopes this issue can be resolved and final decisions on this matter will be posted to the T-SNAP website and communicated via blast email.

The box lunch that had been available to Conference attendees last year on the Tuesday of the conference will not be available this year. The cost of the lunch was rather expensive and only 100, approximately, opted for the box lunch. The Steering Committee will look for other venues.

The Assessment Conference will be held on Sunday, December 6 through Wednesday, December 9 in Austin at the Hilton Convention Center Hotel. The registration fee is \$65 and pre-conference fees are \$50.

**TSNAP Website Update-** Joe Orr, Northside ISD—Joe highlighted the date reminders on the T-SNAP Website. He also noted that August 1 would be the start date for registration for the Forum on the website. Since January there have been 109,000+ hits on the website. Regional groups were encouraged to send additions and/or corrections to the website to Joe.

**Other Business**—There will be a T-SNAP Officers' Meeting on Monday, June 15 to be held at Pearson AOC.

Joe Garrison, T-SNAP Treasurer, reported that T-SNAP currently has 599 members and that membership is down from this time last year. Regional directors were reminded to encourage membership within their groups. Dues are still \$25.

## **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH TEA STAFF**

**Legislative Update**—Gloria Zyskowski reported that HB3 was sitting on the governor's desk. There is a June 21 deadline for either signature or veto. She then highlighted the assessment items in the bill. Regarding EOC, students will have to take all 12 tests though they may not have to pass all three within one subject area if they have sufficiently high scores on two of the three tests.

Gloria continued noting that Grade 6 Spanish assessments would no longer be available. With regards to SSI, Grade 3 would no longer be subject to SSI requirements. Grades 5 and 8 would remain exactly as they have been in the past. The decision for the administration date for the one Grade 3 Reading test has yet to be determined. Pros and cons of various April dates were discussed.

Changes for study guides were also reported. For the '09-'10 school year, these guides may not be provided. They are no longer mandatory and are now optional. Monies have been secured for the development of Study Guides for EOC though the method of distribution has yet to be determined.

Also part of HB3 is the fact that the Commission of Education will now set the standards for tests rather than the State Board of Education. This will hopefully expedite the process.

Changes to the Release Policy for tests will take place immediately. Only primary forms of tests will be released starting with the spring '09 tests. Retest forms of SSI and Exit Level tests will not be released.

TEA has been given the authority to move forward on EOC standards. DTCs requested to be informed ASAP once the standards are set. There will be mandatory administrations of all operational EOC tests during the '09-'10 and '10-'11 school years so that standards will be set by December 2011, so there will be an increase in field testing. The hope is to get all of the notification to districts prior to the start of school, but that may not be possible. TEA is looking to find the lowest sample size to establish the standards to minimize district inconvenience. Raw scores will be reported from the field test administrations and they hope to have more summary reports in the future. Districts will be notified as to the field tests they are to administer and will also be told the mode of the test, online or paper. There is verbiage in HB3 that states that the commissioner cannot mandate computerized testing, but a significant number of students must test online for a standard for online EOC tests to be set. TEA legal is looking into that conflict.

Gloria then reported that tests for Grades 3-8 are going to change. Many of the TEKS have changed and there is a belief that the tests need to be more rigorous. These new tests will be administered in '11-'12 which will call for field testing prior to that administration. These new tests will not be called TAKS.

SB 90 goes into effect immediately as the governor has signed the bill. This bill refers to the Inter-State Compact having to do with military children. Texas will now accept other state's exit level tests and one nationally-normed standard will be set. SAT and ACT standards have already been set and there is no plan to change that. This bill will apply to a broader group than in the past. In the past, acceptance of the SAT and/or ACT score pertained to second-semester seniors. The new rules will pertain to students after completing grade 9 or students who have re-enrolled in grades 10-12 after a two year absence. The definition of "year" has been to be determined. Rules pertaining to this issue are currently being written.

SB759 has to do with group- administered norm-referenced tests. This bill has not been signed yet, but is expected to be shortly. Norms can now be used for eight years instead of six years and assessments can be used longer than the current three years limitation. Results will no longer have to be reported to the state.

**TPM/Vertical Scale Score Update**—Gloria reported that though these are currently only on student's CSRs and in data files, additional online only reports will be available this fall. Summary reports showing '08 and '09 performance and projected performance will be included showing the number of students tested, the number and percent of students that met the standard, the number and percent of students that met TPM, and finally the number and percent of students that met the standard or TPM. TEA will be looking at the accuracy of the projections in the future and will decide whether or not the campus mean need to be included in the TPM calculations. They will also investigate to see if TPM can be calculated for students that take tests in English and Spanish. Projection measures will phase in for TAKS-M and Grade 8 science will have a TPM in spring '10. Plans are being made for TPM for the EOC tests and groups will meet on TPM reporting issues. Gloria noted the problems with correcting history files this

spring and they are working with Pearson to get students identified so corrections can be made in an easier manner. Paul Matzen noted that the record changes process for Grades 10 and Exit might be expanded to grades 3-11. The possibility of bouncing PEIMS submission information in the fall against the history files was mentioned, but there was concern that this might be too late in the school year. The request was also made that DTCs be given a file for corrections rather than submitting documentation with a request for corrections.

When DTCs were asked about their reaction to TPM, the reactions were positive. TPM was seen as an additional tool for students. The Chart at the Turn Around Center was mentioned as a helpful tool to use with TPM results.

**State Assessment Calendar Revision Update**—The May 22 email was referenced for calendar changes. This email included the move for TELPAS Holistic Rater training from August 3 to July 27 for an opening date. The fall study dates were changed to September 14 to October 2. Some dates for LPAC training have yet to be determined, but Manual training will be on Wednesday, December 16. The Grade 4 Writing field tests have been removed from the testing calendar. The possibility of some administrative “clean up” days for TELPAS being added to the TELPAS window was discussed.

With regards to SSI, the Grade 3 reading administration date will be moved to some time in April to maximize instructional time. Gloria then reported that language in HB 3 states that a student that does not participate in acceleration in the summer cannot be promoted to the next grade. This raised several issues and concerns pertaining to students who leave the state for the summer, sometimes to comply with legal requirements. Gloria noted that “accelerated instruction” might have a different look and exactly what that would encompass will be determined by TEA’s Curriculum.

A request was made that high schools selected for the NAEP might be exempt from other field tests. Gloria responded that she hoped that could happen.

In closing, Gloria stated that they hope to have a final calendar set soon. Comments should be sent to her regarding the calendar ASAP.

#### **JJAEPs-**

- **Transporting testing materials back and forth between districts and these facilities.**—Students in JJAEP facilities are required to test and materials need to be sent to these locations for their administrations.
- **Providing security training to these facilities.**--Questions about security training for these facilities were raised and Cathy suggested that collaboration would be the best way to handle this. It was mentioned that this might be a good topic for the Forum in September

#### **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH PEARSON STAFF**

##### **Shipping-**

- **In general, non-scorable shipment deadlines for larger districts are too short. It takes every day in the window to process all materials with an army of part-time help in order to meet the shipping deadline. Would it be possible, at least for larger districts, to get an extra couple of days added to the window?**—Paul Matzen reported that this might be doable.
- **Shipping notifications either never arrive or come after shipments are received after reports arrive.**—Paul said that he would look into the matter. This may be a larger district issue. He noted that Fed Ex goes into the email system while Fed Ex Freight has to be entered manually
- **Overage for all testing was very short in some districts. This caused the need for many additional orders.**—Many DTCs noted that manuals and test booklets were very short especially when it came to TAKS-M. Though districts complete the fall enrollment and the January updates, the frequent special education changes to testing for students makes numbers change on a daily basis. The

possibility of repositories of materials in certain centralized locations throughout the state was suggested. This would cut down on not only time but also shipping costs.

#### **Reports-**

○ **Is the “List of Student Results” available anymore with TELPAS? If not, why not?**—In spring '08 the standard needed to be set for TELPAS reading, so we received reports with only raw scores for reading. Now that the standard has been set, that List of Student Results report will now longer be generated.

Paul noted that Item Analysis Reports will be available in early August, online only.

#### **OTHER TOPICS IF TIME PERMITS**

- Problem of multiple sites for training and online testing—Pearson hopes to have 1 site for everything in the future.
- Could the Additional Order form match the Materials list?—Paul will look into this.