



T-SNAP TELECONFERENCE MINUTES
September 2, 2010
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

TELECONFERENCE MODERATOR – Stacy Daugherty, 2010 T-SNAP President

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SECTION

Gloria Zyskowski:

- Although there were many questions asking about both this year 2010-11 and looking ahead to 2011-12, she said she was focusing on Spring, 2011. The Agency is still working through issues for 2011-12. She said she understood the great interest.
- Testing Windows - The 2010-11 calendar is posted,. TEA expects that the live administrations in 2012 will use windows as well. All 12 EOC will be administered in both paper and online formats. So computers may not be an issue. Districts will be able to do either format. This is also true for the 2011 administration.
- How to maintain test security in a window? There is not a definite answer yet for 2012. We have not faced a high-stakes assessment in a testing window. (Right now we have to do online Exit Retests on same day as paper.) Particular security concerns center around English I, II and III, primarily regarding the security of the prompt. There will be prompts embedded as field tests. The plan now is to have EOC administered in a window and to offer both paper and online versions.
- “Creative question:” One district asked to voluntarily test all ninth graders (all tests) and inquired whether they could they skip other assigned tests in spring 2011 as a trade-off? Gloria offered points for creativity but the answer is no. All districts must administer their assigned tests. TEA encourages districts to do other EOC voluntarily as well.
- How will TEA address campuses that are using accelerated/flexible scheduling? This question was clarified to address campuses that are doing an accelerated block schedule where students could finish a course in a semester. There are no end-of-semester tests in the 11-12 school year. So this will only be a problem during that first implementation year. After that, the plan will be to offer EOC administrations at the end of 1st semester, end of 2nd semester, and end of summer school. TEA’s response is that they plan to come up with a plan for those affected students for that first year. They know it’s an issue. Remember: No EOC assessments will be given at the end of 1st semester in 2011-2012.
- What about campuses that are participating in the flexible end of school year?? How will these campuses who end their year early will handle EOC? Gloria said that TEA only became aware of this issue this past school year when districts were tapped for mandatory EOC... Her answer: Statute requires that we are not allowed to administer the EOC before the first week of May (when they go “live” in 2012) We are not allowed to administer any tests early due to schedules. TEA and the districts must come up with a way for these two programs to co-exist. There is less flexibility in the assessment calendar than in the school calendar. TEA will try to work with districts on the spring 2011 administration but there will be less flexibility on the live tests than the field tests. Bottom

line: Being on the flexible schedule is not a reason to be exempt from the field testing. Districts affected are advised to contact TEA as soon as they get their field test letter so they can work with them. There will be some “work arounds” for 2011 but not when the tests become high stakes.

- There was a concern also about getting score reports from April testing so late that school is over for these campuses before the reports come. Suggestion: If you are a flexible-year campus, get your materials back to Pearson ASAP.
- What plans are in the works to make STAAR a timed test? This has been discussed extensively at the Agency. Generally the EOC have been designed to take about 2 hours. Moving from a totally untimed to a timed test is a huge step. And TEA is not sure that everyone in the field wants this to happen. Student Assessment is seriously considering *time limits*, however so you cannot go over a particular amount of time. They welcome input from the field on this. Example of what a possible time limit might be: For Gr. 3-8: – possibly the end of the school day. For EOC? Not sure. Current data on the amount of time taken on EOC online tests are not really indicative of what it might be when the tests become high stakes.

Cathy Kline - Training

- What is the expectation for the use of the online training modules this year? It is the same as last year. The modules are optional but encouraged. They are not mandatory and do not take the place of regular test administrator training.
- Are districts allowed to use electronic training to meet the training requirements? The Agency does not have a policy about how training is delivered. They encourage face-to-face training because of the need to offer opportunity to clarify information and ask questions. They feel that in a pinch electronic training can be used, but it is not encouraged. Caution – The district is still required to maintain proof that training took place. They have to verify “attendance.” If electronic training is used, the district is assuming the risks that people might not be thoroughly trained and incidents may occur if people miss key points and don’t have the chance to ask questions. The burden here is on the district.

Julie Guthrie - EOC

- Reporting options for 2011 – all 12 of EOC will be available in spring, 2011 both on paper and online. World History and English II and III will be field tests. There will be reports on all operational assessments, whether taken online or paper. No results for FT. 24 hours after the online assessments, the district can access CSR and the Confidential List of Student results. If EOC are taken on paper, districts get the same reports ASAP but not within 24 hours. The summary reports will be released later in summer which is the same as last few years. TEA is doing sampling to set performance standards for 2012 and doing comparability studies. Alg I standards will be changing as the test becomes high stakes in 2012. All information that is available currently with assessments will change. New curriculum documents: blueprints, reference materials, etc. will be coming. A lot of information will be posted in the next month. Blast emails will alert DTC that materials are posted.
- Released items – STAAR program will follow the release cycle of every 3 years. But there will be a limited release of info (information booklets) next fall. The first full release will occur after the 2014 administration. The curriculum division is rolling out professional development modules in the content areas.
- Question: What is the plan for EOC parent information? How soon will it be available? The Agency has already put out a graduation brochure with information on EOC. It is written for students and parents. Discusses the credit and assessment requirements for graduation.
- Question: How will the 8th grade students taking Alg. I this year take the EOC for their cumulative score? How will they get credit for the test with no final standard set this year? This is still being looked at. (Same problem as the students who will finish a course during semester 1 in 2011-12.) One option is to decrease the potential target cumulative score. The score may be based on 2 rather

than 3 EOC in a subject area. Another option is to have the student take the test at a later point in high school (not really as a retest but on a retest schedule).

- Question: EOC counts as 15% of course grade but this won't begin until 2012. How will the transition be handled? Kids who test this spring won't have that requirement. If districts allow grade changes after retests, these kids may test later and then the local policy will determine whether the course grade later will be changed.
- Question: How will we track students' progress through EOC? Tracking of EOC will be a challenging process. Hopefully the data portal which is coming later this year will help with this tracking
- Question: Can we get the data file with EOC earlier in the summer rather than later when they currently come out? Julie will take this back for consideration.
- Question: Release for EOC – The Algebra I test has been around for a long time. Why can't it be released? The language in statute allows TEA to defer release to help develop assessments. TEA is using items in test banks to help with development of the modified assessments. Comment: We encourage TEA to reward districts for their cooperation with the extensive development of this test by giving us a release of some type. There is a lot riding on this one test. Data shows that our students are not doing very well and we are concerned with the plan to raise standards before it becomes high stakes. We really need a full Algebra release test now. Please consider how important this is and help districts be proactive in curriculum preparation for this test.
- Are all freshmen enrolled in fall of 2011 are subject to the EOC grad requirements? Julie: The rule says only first-time freshmen in fall, 2011 are subject to the new EOC graduation requirements. Repeating freshmen have TAKS as their graduation assessment.
- Question: What tests will repeating freshmen taking in 2012 since there is no plan to produce 9th grade reading and math TAKS that year? TEA is still discussing what the repeating 9th graders will take during that first year.
- No information about the new accountability system or how the new assessments will fit into the plan.
- Question: Can you release SE data as well as objective data early for EOC? This is not on the plan right now but will check.

Cathy Kline - Calendar

- Question: Why was the first day of the July 2011 Exit Retest moved to Monday? We did this to accommodate districts who use the four-day week in summer. We may shift summer testing for 2012.
- When will districts receive the field test selection letter? We are later than usual. They are currently scheduled to go out Sept. 10. DTC will log into secure website to find out their requirements.
- Will summer SSI retesting for STAAR occur in 2012? No retests at all (May either) are planned in 2012 in 5th and 8th. Districts will use all available information to make promotion decisions for those students. There will be only one administration for grades 5 and 8 in 2012.
- Question: When a calendar is reposted, it would be helpful to know specifically what was changed. No broadcast email went out for the August change because there was already a scheduled TAKS-Alt email and that contained the change. Comment: Districts appreciate the broadcast emails that go out normally describing the changes. Please continue them.

Cari Wieland - Special Education

- Will there be a Spanish version of the STAAR modified test? Probably not. There are no plans for a Spanish version. It is not funded for this small population.
- Accommodated/modified tests and their respective timelines – As of today, there will be modified versions targeted toward students on the minimum graduation plan. No modified versions of Chemistry, Algebra II, or Physics are planned for now. The steering committee is coming in October to finalize plans. They are looking at the Accommodated version being a concept rather than a

separate form. This means that they are looking at continuing to allow accommodations on the test but not necessarily on a separate form. There are mixed opinions so far from the field.

- Question: How will you handle field test items if there is no separate Accommodated form? Probably the student would take the FT items. There will also be embedded FT items in modified STAAR. During the spring of 2012 there will be “operational field tests.” The goal is to eliminate stand-alone field testing. Kids test once. When the tests go live, there will continue to be embedded field test items.
- If state implements time limits for testing, there will still be consideration of accommodations for extra time.
- Multiple teachers of record for TAKS-Alt are allowed this year. When the TAKS-Alt practice center opens this fall, both teachers will be able to see each other’s tests/scores. On the live site when it opens in Jan, this will not be possible.
- What happens with AYP in 2012 if students take the operational field tests? There is precedent for this and these students’ scores will be reported late. Participation requirements are covered. TEA will set standards during the summer and report performance late. If analysis shows that some items were poor, they’ll be pulled out before the performance standard is set.
- We are curious about accommodations for STAAR. TEA is working on the policies. Nothing definitive. Philosophy is to increase accessibility without burdening districts or increasing number of ARFs required, or compromising the test. TEA is looking at a standardized oral administration (probably computer-based). This should also help with campus test planning by reducing the number of required test administrators. When the standardized OA goes into effect, there will be an option to continue to use the live OA administrator rather than the computer. Details and nuances are coming later.
- Still have lots of issues and misunderstandings with M kids and the use of supplemental aids. Cari is concerned because she wants supplemental aids to be part of STAAR for kids who need them. She showed an example of a supplemental aid that was announced at a statewide conference as “TEA APPROVED.” It was not approved. It contained a list of math terms with page references to a dictionary where student could find the definitions. This would never be an approved accommodation because it is too long and cumbersome. TEA is also hearing about packets of supplemental aids that include a table of contents. Any supplemental aid that requires a table of contents is way too much. Districts need to be very careful or the desired accommodations won’t be available for STAAR. Abuses could lead to the end of the use of supplemental aids.
- Supplemental aids must make sense for kids, not compromise the integrity of the test, not be labor-intensive and must be used every day – not just for testing. If you are at a conference and someone shows an aid and claims it is TEA approved, please call Cari.

PEARSON SECTION

Paul Matson

- Question: Will the data file updates provided after record changes are made contain all records again and not just the updated students? Paul asked what districts prefer – the whole file with the updates or just updated kids alone? NISD feels that it is much quicker and easier to have the whole file again after updates are made. Paul Comment: This might delay the receipt of the files for awhile if we have to give you the whole file again. Can they flag the updated students? Apparently they can provide either option. Pearson wants to know DTC opinion.
- Pearson is trying to get the Data file format out earlier. Last year some late policy decisions caused the delay. This year the data file format will probably be out Jan. or Feb at latest.

- What is the result of the Netbook study for online testing? Pearson is finalizing the results now. The most important thing is to be sure computers have the right screen resolution for online testing. Students should have the larger screen resolution so they don't have to scroll up or down. Pearson will be sending out information on this.
- Will all reports be ordered online this year? There will no longer be any paper ordering of reports. Reports for all administrations will be ordered on the Texas Assessment Management System. Reports cannot be ordered all at the same time (for the year) due to different requirements. See the user guides for more information.
- DSIRS – Will this be able this year? Response: Not in the same form. There will be similar functionality on the teacher portal which will be available at the end of September. When the portal is available, DTC will get instructions on how to prepare files. Districts will then be able to link teachers to those groups and teachers will be able to see their student data. Comment: We must have exportable files so that student data can be imported into SIS.
- Records Correction Process – Can we upload corrections rather than making the corrections one at a time. Response: Two things will be slightly different. When districts upload for precoding there will be some checking against the student history. If there is not a match, that record will be rejected. You can fix these on the system and upload or notify Pearson of the corrections. There will continue to be the regular history changes to make after each administration. Pearson is looking at a different way to submit documentation on students. Large districts have a big concern about the number of changes they must make. With the checks before precoding there will be a lot of rejected records which will create a lot of hand-gridded answer docs. Paul: There will be an opportunity to upload the corrections before precoding. Illustration: If you have a file of 100 students and 95 are correct and 5 are incorrect and “thrown out” you will have to correct the five before the precoding window closes or you will not receive any precoded materials for those five students.
- Question: What will the turnaround time be for those corrections of rejected files before precoding? Many districts wait to upload their precode file as late as possible to have it as correct as possible. Paul: Districts can submit their file early and then have time to submit updated records. Districts do not have to submit all at once. They can do the early file and then the whole file with updated kids or just the updates.
- Can Pearson notify districts that requested changes have been made to the student history files? We have been waiting a long time to see requested changes on the system and this could have accountability repercussions. Paul: Districts will be able to submit the documentation online starting later this month on the Texas Assessment Management System. You won't need to fax any longer. Districts will be able to see that the materials were “submitted”, are “in processing” or “completed.”
- Suggestion: What about granting access to the precode files this fall so districts can see how “clean” our files are? We need more time to work on errors than the precoding window would provide. Paul: We will look at this.

T-SNAP MATTERS

Stacy Daugerty, 2010 TSNAP President

- **Fall Training Activities - There are spots still available – register at <http://www.TSNAP.org>**
 - New Coordinator Academy will be held either September 16 OR 17 at the Pearson facility in Austin. This one-day training includes a tour of the Pearson facility so all participants must wear closed toe and closed heel shoes. Jeans and sneakers are the dress code of the day.
 - Not So New Coordinator Academy - September 30 at Region 4 in Houston from 1-5 pm.
 - TSNAP Best Practices Forum will be held on October 1 at Region 4 in Houston. (TSNAP MEMBERS ONLY) This will be the third year for this event. Pay your TSNAP dues so you can participate.

- **Memberships and Treasurer’s Report** – Joe Garrison, 2010 T-SNAP Treasurer: Memberships go “conference to conference” There is no penalty for paying dues early in the fall . Members can renew now and be covered through conference in 2011. You can mail-in dues or pay online (Easy!!)
- **2010 Texas Assessment Conference** – Sandra Poth, 2003 T-SNAP Past President: Conference will be held December 1 (Pre-conferences in the morning and Keynote begins in the afternoon. The conference will be held at the Austin Hilton and the Austin Convention Center. The Austin Hilton’s rooms are full for the conference. There are a limited number of government rate rooms available at the Marriott Courtyard and Marriott Residence Inn. It looks like the conference will be very well attended this year.
 - **Schedule changes this year** – The conference starts on Wednesday rather than Monday and goes through Friday noon. There will be opening sessions with legislators. TEA will return to the second day general session. Their information will include transition from TAKS-STAAR. Since TEA is required to submit their transition plan to the Legislature by December 1, this will be a critically important general session. There will be many other sessions scheduled for TEA to supplement information given in the general session on Thursday.
 - **TSNAP luncheon will replace the breakfast** – The TSNAP business meeting and luncheon will be held at the Austin Convention Center. 500 seats are reserved. Your luncheon costs \$25 with a membership to TSNAP. Members will pick up their tickets at the TSNAP booth. The after lunch keynote speaker will be Ervin Knezek. That session will be held in the same room as the luncheon. He will discuss the future of accountability and where we are headed in Texas. Two more concurrent sessions are scheduled for that afternoon and two more on Friday morning.
 - **Registration for TAC is online now at www.tasanet.org**