



T-SNAP TELECONFERENCE AGENDA

June 9, 2011

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND PRELIMINARIES – Bill Renton (RATS Director)

TELECONFERENCE MODERATOR – Mary Anne Barber, 2011 T-SNAP President

STUDENT ASSESSMENT:

TEA reporting: Gloria Zyskowski prefaced her remarks with the caution that the legislative session is still going on, so there is always the possibility that something affecting assessment could be passed.

- Availability of Released TAKS tests

Next year TEA's website will only have grade 10 and Exit Level Released TAKS tests. If districts have any additional need for a Released TAKS test, please contact Student Assessment. The request was made to include grade 9 for the purpose of helping repeating 9th graders who will remain TAKS testers.

- Comprehensive testing calendar for 2012

The comprehensive calendar will have all precode submission dates for EOC tests. T-SNAP expressed the need for DTCs to have one complete calendar for ALL testing issues for management; not to have to go to multiple calendars. Pearson will work on that.

General TEA comments about the testing calendar: minor revisions will still be made to the current calendar. TEA is currently working on the 2012-2013 calendar. There is still a need for thought about how to schedule EOCs. TEA thanked those who had participated in the recent survey. TEA is considering going to a testing window. It is increasingly difficult to come up with specific dates that will work for everybody across the state. English I, II and III will be administered in March with assigned dates (for the security of the prompt), and then a two

week window for the EOCs in May is being considered. Districts might need flexibility as the number of EOCs increases. A suggestion was made to make it a 3-week window in May. Statute prohibits testing prior to the first full week of May. If testing runs too late into May, results will not be back to districts to enable campuses to complete student records for the spring in a timely manner (issue with using the EOC score for 15% of final grade). Discussion ensued regarding difficulties for districts with TEA setting either definitive dates or windows. If there is a window, districts will have more flexibility for online testing. The window will include make-up dates. Test security was a main concern brought up when discussing a testing window. This has to be weighed against the need for flexibility. A suggestion was made to set a calendar for the spring, but allow for a window for the retest opportunities.

- Reporting testing incidents for STAAR

TEA is “rethinking” virtually every concept currently in place for TAKS. They are looking for ways to try to reduce the amount of documentation districts have to submit to the state. TEA hopes to revise the incident reporting system to an even more automated system, with fewer incidents requiring documentation submission.

- 4-hour time limit

TEA is still working on the guidance for a 4-hour limit. TA scripts will be rewritten to notify students about the time limits. LEAs will still set their own start time. TEA will not be regulating start/stop times for breaks; these will be included in the 4-hour block. The exception to this would be a lunch break. Bathroom breaks, snacks, etc. will be part of the 4-hour limit. TEA is aware of the concern about the 4-hour limit for English EOC tests. The state will not provide specific guidance regarding group bathroom breaks, teacher conference periods during testing, etc. The decision to put a time limit was data driven. 95% of the students who participated in field testing finished in 4 hours or less. The 4-hour limit will allow districts to schedule more than 1 session per day. This may be especially beneficial for EOC/online testing. Elementary tests are designed to be completed in approximately 2 hours. It was noted that other standardized tests do not allow unlimited time, and Texas might not be preparing students well for other tests they will have to take. T-SNAP requested that the guidelines be released as soon as possible to allow for district planning.

- TSNAP inquired about the possibility of a list of procedural changes (TAKS to STAAR) to be distributed during in regional training

TEA will focus on the differences between the two testing programs. They are looking at different aspects of training, format for training, possibly fewer meetings required for training (fewer days throughout the spring). Overall TEA is trying to reduce the number of requirements associated with training.

- EOC eligibility for spring 2012 for 8th graders—STAAR Math vs. Algebra I

Incoming 9th graders in the fall of 2011 will have EOCs as their graduation testing requirement. HB 2135 passed this session and indicates that those students who are in middle school or lower and taking a course for high school credit (and its corresponding EOC) will not have to take the grade level STAAR test for that subject area, i.e. an 8th grader taking Algebra I will not have to take the grade 8 math STAAR. SSI could not automatically retain an 8th grader taking Algebra I EOC since there would not be multiple testing opportunities for that student. They do not have an answer yet as how this will affect accountability. The law says 8th graders taking Algebra I are not prohibited from taking the grade 8 math STAAR, so districts might be allowed to make a local decision to administer it.

TAKS-testers will not be allowed to take EOCs on a voluntary basis due to budget constraints though a mandatory sample will be selected for 2012 spring testing as TEA needs data for the upper level course EOCs. A communication will go out to districts to this effect noting the number of students in the mandatory sample. It will not be an option for districts to have a student take EOCs if they are not a graduation requirement for that student. Credit-by-exam students are still under discussion as to EOC requirements. Districts need to determine if students taking courses during this summer are to be classified as entering freshman for the 2011-2012 schoolyear. It is not realistic to have a student finish a course in July and then test the following May.

- STAAR L

Laura Ayala reported that the LAT will be called STAAR L. 2012 will be a transitional year for this testing program. STAAR L will be developed as an online test. For spring 2012 grades 3-8 will test on paper; high school tests will be administered online with the teacher providing accommodations. All tests should go totally online spring 2013 with the majority of the accommodations online as well. Discussion ensued about STAAR L for grade 9 next year. There will still be TAKS LAT for grade 10 next year. STAAR L will not be developed just as a response to AYP but will be available in conjunction with every STAAR test. STAAR L will be administered the same day as regular testing. Tutorials will be provided online prior to testing in 2013. Many DTCs expressed concern over the number of TAs that will be needed to administer a STAAR L on the same day as regular testing. T-SNAP requested that districts be notified next year so they can budget for 2013 hardware.

- Accommodations Manual for STAAR

Cari Wieland reported that the plan is slightly different for 2012. The Student Assessment website will be used to post policies as they become available. There probably will not be a specific manual next year as we have had in the past. T-SNAP requested a broadcast email so we will know when the website is updated. Students needing extended time as an accommodation, outside of the 4 hour limit, will be addressed. TEA is trying to develop very specific examples of accommodations to reduce the burden on districts for accommodation requests (ARFs). TEA will provide training in the fall as usual for ARD Decision-Making, etc, but are encouraging districts to delay training for a bit so more final decisions can be made prior to local training. The delivery system will rely heavily on the website. There will be dyslexia accommodations on STAAR, but not exactly as they have been on TAKS. There will not be a separate booklet or a proper nouns list. There will be more options for reading aloud questions and answer choices and extended time, and dyslexia accommodations will be allowable on the English EOC tests. A question was raised about online testing for oral administrations. TEA will pilot this and do studies to try to get it up and running for 2013. STAAR Alternate will be instituted across the board, grades 3-11, in 2012 and we will not run two ALT systems (STAAR and TAKS) simultaneously.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND PEARSON:

Gloria Zyskowski

- Arrival of manuals in districts

Timelines for the 2011-2012 school year will not be the same as subsequent years, but we should not expect manuals to arrive in districts earlier next year. It will take time to determine procedures to be included in the manuals.

- Corrections to manuals

TEA sends corrections as soon as they become aware of them.

- Student Portal

Mariana Vassileva reported that the new program was instituted with the October 2010 Exit Level retest. Concern was expressed that students and parents received the results at the same time the districts received them. This was a policy decision that was consciously made, that students and parents had a right to the information as soon as it was available. TEA hopes that access at the same time will allow them to redesign the parent brochures and take some of the burden off the districts to answer questions.

- Districts will be able to administer some EOCs on paper and others online.

PEARSON:

Reporting: Paul Matzen

TAMS—General

- Availability of SIRS through TAMS
2011-2012 will be the last year of overall TAKS so SIRS will be available through Schoolhouse. In 2012-2013 it will transfer to TAMS.
- Location of student records and record changes: For 2011-2012 TAKS records will continue to be available in Schoolhouse. STAAR records will be housed in TAMS.
- Access to published reports
There is still ongoing discussion about adding new roles to allow campus coordinators to access scores, as well as the addition of other new roles.
- The possibility of a selected default for the Electronic Individual Student Record file was discussed. Next year CSRs will be available online, but districts will receive a paper shipment as well. A zipped fixed-length record file in TAMS will become the default for the student record file. DTCs will have to indicate if they want a different type file.
- The possibility of increased cooperation between TEA PEIMS staff and Pearson to correct student files multiple times per year was also discussed. The point was that PEIMS personnel make submissions to state that DTCs are having to duplicate. TEA gives districts the option to submit data files. Timing is an issue when waiting for corrected PEIMS files to be used for all precoding. Do not expect any changes for the 2011-2012 year. A concern was raised about DTCs making numerous corrections on the same files throughout the year.
- The problem with precodes this spring with transfer students was noted.
A problem was created when student information was submitted twice due to the student moving from one district to another. This will be corrected this next year.
- The possibility of obtaining data files from Pearson that TEA will use for accountability calculations was raised. It will be helpful if districts receive the data file that Pearson sends to TEA for accountability so we will have the identical information if an appeal is required.

Next year, test results for online tests will be posted after the close of a testing window. Paper results will be posted as they become available (based on when a district ships) but will be available NLT June 4 if the district ships on schedule.

The default for EOC testing will be paper; however districts can request online. 9th graders can be tested online or on paper. The desired mode will be indicated in the precode file.

TAMS—TELPAS

- Score code corrections are allowed on each TELPAS domain. Corrected CSRs are available after the official results go to TEA.
- The possibility for CTCs to be able to add students to TELPAS rosters was also discussed. New roles may be available next year as well as additional privileges.

OTHER ITEMS

- Currently it does not look like this legislature will change the 15% rule for grades with EOC results.

T-SNAP MATTERS:

- **Treasurer's Report**—Joe Garrison
Closed out 2010 and filed all IRS reports.
Balance for TSNAP's account is \$44,370.68.
- **Membership Report**—Bill Renton
We have 718 members to date.
- **Texas Assessment Conference**—Sandra Poth
 - ❖ December 4-7, 2011
Monday through Wednesday format. Increased cost in hotel accommodations. Housing is now available via the Conference Housing Service. Use the link on tasanet.org to make your reservations. Do not call the hotel directly. Costs were frozen last year at 2009 rates due to our concessions to date changes with Hilton. The rates we see this year reflect a two-year increase. If you need to cancel your reservation, you must do it 72 hours in advance to avoid being charged for the first night. The conference schedule will be modified to allow sufficient time to get from the Hilton to sessions at the Convention Center.

Concurrent session proposals are still needed. Please continue to submit proposals through June. Contact Sandra if you need help formulating a proposal. We will again have our T-SNAP Luncheon and business meeting at the Convention Center on the Tuesday of the Conference. More details to come.

- **New Business**—Mary Anne Barber

- ❖ Amendment to T-SNAP Constitution

Amendment passed to change our membership year to coordinate with the school year versus a calendar year. If this change presents a problem for someone to attend the Forum, please contact Mary Anne or Joe.

- ❖ Fall Academies and Best Practices Forum

- New Coordinators' Academy—September 15 or 16 in Austin
 - Not-So-New Coordinators' Academy—September 29 in San Antonio
 - Best Practices Forum—September 30 in San Antonio

- ❖ Next T-SNAP TETN—Thursday, September 1, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Talbott
TSNAP Secretary