



**T-SNAP TELECONFERENCE MINUTES**  
**February 11, 2010**  
**1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL AND PRELIMINARIES** – Sherri McCord (Region 4)

**TELECONFERENCE MODERATOR** – Stacy Daugherty, 2010 T-SNAP President

**T-SNAP MATTERS**

**2010 Texas Assessment Conference – November 30 – December 3** – Sandra Poth

- Note the change in dates for this year’s conference: Preconference sessions will be on Wednesday, Dec. 1 (You may want to plan your travel for Tuesday, Nov. 30.) The conference ends on Friday, Dec. 3. The Austin Hilton is prepared to accept reservations now. Use the local Austin telephone number rather than the national reservation site. Provide the conference abbreviation, TAA, when making the reservation. You do not have to provide a credit card at the time of reservation this year. However, you must cancel 72 hours in advance if not using the reservation.
- There is a planning committee meeting next week in Austin to begin the process of developing the plan, reviewing the evaluations, selecting speakers, etc. Stacy Daugherty, Mary Ann Barber, and Sandra Poth will attend and are available for suggestions, etc.
- There is a possibility of TSNAP moving away from the second day breakfast to a second day lunch meeting (Thursday for this year’s conference). Plans are still preliminary and the Board will be working with sponsors. Stacy will do an online survey of member to gauge interest.

**Memberships and Treasurers Report** – Joe Garrison

- 607 members as of today, February 11, 2010. TSNAP members are encouraged to contact new coordinators in their regions to join.
- Financial Report: \$27,567.79 balance as of today
- TSNAP financial review process began the last day of the conference in December. The committee reviewed financial statements and processes and made several recommendations on how to improve the process including posting information on the TSNAP website. The committee’s recommendations were submitted to TSNAP President, Stacy Daugherty. Thanks go to the committee chair, Kathy Aaron and her team.

**Website Update** – Joe Orr

There are new web reports available under the pull-down tab “About TSNAP” on the left side. Here you can find a lot of new information regarding visitors to the TSNAP website.

**Regional Spotlight (RATS)** – Bill Renton

Since the official 2009 DTC training was only one day this year, San Antonio region decided this year to provide their new and 2<sup>nd</sup> year district test coordinators with a second day of specialized training. They presented this day’s training in panel format on several topics including Accountability, Campus Test Planning, 10 Things I Wish I’d Known, Helpful Websites, Get and Stay Committed.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

**EOC Field Testing** – Cathy Kline

Questions/Comments:

- What is the difference between voluntary and mandatory EOC tests this year? Reply: Some operational tests that had been optional in the past suddenly became mandatory this year. This is due to standard-setting for the 2012 EOC. TEA needs a representative sample in order to set standards and be in compliance with statute by Fall, 2011. Districts will all benefit from standards

being set on a representative sample. Thanks to everyone for their cooperation. Unfortunately, next year will not be any better.

- Why are all students enrolled in a course required to take the paper administrations of the EOC in 2010 while online administrations only have to have 300 or less? Reply: Psychometricians would prefer to have data for all enrolled for the online tests too, but TEA limited the number because they recognize the logistical challenges of online testing. The data gathered will help to evaluate the adequacy of the online EOC testing window as we move to planning for 2012.
- Has there been communication with district technology directors regarding the EOC online testing requirements? Reply: There has been no communication with district technology directors since many districts do not have them. All communications regarding online EOC assessment will continue to go to DTC and they should forward these communications as necessary. Those who don't have enough testing to do can still volunteer for the online EOC tests!! It is too late to volunteer for more paper administration tests.
- Region 4 asked about getting data from Algebra 1 disaggregated by high school vs. 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Reply: About half of the Algebra data are based heavily on middle school representation. Most districts are much more concerned about the high school data.
- Region 7 commented that during the January field test they had a group of high school students "boycott" the test for the first time. While this district intends to test all the EOC, they are concerned about getting the kids to take the test seriously. Reply: Psychometricians understand the difficulties in motivating students and how this impacts the quality of the data. There are statistical ways to work around these problems. TEA continues to look at ways to embed items where ever they can rather than using stand-alone field tests.

#### **Field Testing Plans 2010-2011 – Cathy Kline**

TEA is still working out details regarding sample sizes for 2010-2011. Their plan is to notify districts before the start of the school year. (Notification was later this year.) The sample sizes will most likely be larger due to preparations for the new STAAR. Cathy said that, "It will be ugly next year." She promised that they would try to keep the sample as small as possible in order to get good data.

#### Question:

- Region 13 expressed a concern about putting the field testing right before the live tests. (Window for 2011 is January 24 – March 4.) They asked about the possibility of choosing another window. Reply: TEA has looked at all possible windows. They prefer to field test as close to live testing as possible.

#### **TELPAS – Laura Ayala and Cristina Vazquez**

#### Questions/Comments:

- The limit on manuals for TELPAS is especially tough on high-LEP districts. It might be better to go back to printing separate manuals for the Holistic rating and the reading test administration. This might better distribute the manuals since there are many more raters than reading test administrators. Reply: The manuals were combined because of the Electronic Submission System and the need for both sides to use this system. There will be a focus group coming in this spring and this issue could be discussed. TEA will revisit the formulas for manual distribution for next year. The system will allow districts to order additional manuals for TELPAS.
- What might districts do to support those raters who are struggling with the training? Districts are having trouble with raters not being successful (even after supplemental training) and the limited number of state trainer and limited amount of time to get everything done is making it very hard. Small districts are especially vulnerable if they lose too many raters and they may have to make the decision to use these raters even if the district doesn't feel comfortable. Districts need to know what they can do. Reply: Supplemental training IS required by TEA if a rater fails a domain in Level 2, but ultimately, the district chooses what happens if a rater fails the extra practice after supplemental training. Districts can still use the rater, but this is not recommended by TEA. There are other options for extra practice which districts may require. Districts can have person review missed material with a state-approved trainer. There are additional writing practice modules available. CTC should be sure that raters are using the Proficiency Level Descriptors (rubrics) when rating. Districts might have raters go back and review the printed material from the training binder if that is available. They can also require that the rater collaborate with a rater who has met all the qualifications, or they can choose not to use that rater. There is still a requirement that districts implement a system to ensure validity and reliability of the rating system. Note the difference between a rater who previously qualified to rate writing and now fails the supplemental training practice and a rater who never qualified to rate writing in the first place. If a rater fails to qualify after two attempts, TEA does not allow that rater to rate on his/her own. They are required to collaborate with another trained rater.

This is not a requirement for a rater who fails Level 2 and goes back to Level for additional practice – only one of several options that a district may choose from. TEA takes input every year to hopefully improve the system for the coming year. Feel free to email Laura Ayala or Cristina with suggestions/concerns.

- Is there a way to find out who is on the ELL Assessment Focus Group (meeting Feb. 23) in case we would like to make suggestions? Reply: If you have input, call Laura Ayala and she will give you names of people in your area to contact.
- According to reports from Region 20 and Region 7, some TELPAS reports (“At a Glance”) are not showing information correctly. Districts have been forced to look up raters individually or have incorrect information. Pearson Reply: The “At a Glance” report doesn’t have all the information. Reports are shown by current semester only. Since these reports will not show training results for a previous semester, this may not be the best view for reporting purposes. Pearson promises to share the information when they get to the bottom of the problem

## **Military Families and SB90 Section VII – Cathy Kline**

### Questions/Comments:

- A concern was expressed that districts need written procedures to follow and how to determine whether a student needs to take a TAKS exit test or if the exit-level scores from the sending state will suffice. Reply: See this website with latest information: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/mil/index.html> The Agency is working on the best way to implement this law. There is a PowerPoint available now with information on the website and meetings are ongoing. As far as exit testing goes, the LEA can elect to accept exit tests in the four core areas from the sending state. If there are no science or social studies exit tests from the sending state, nothing can replace them and the student must test with TAKS Exit Tests. It might be easier in some cases to get the diploma issued by the sending state. More information is forthcoming.
- Districts may be quite confused about whether to accept the sending state’s testing. The rule in the manual that states that we must test all enrolled students adds to the confusion. We need clarification from TEA since March 3 is coming quickly. Reply: There will be more direct guidance in the coming week. Keep checking the website.

## **Oaths – Cathy Kline**

### Question:

- Districts are struggling with what appear to be duplicate oaths. Are the General Oaths for TAKS and TAKS-M the same? Do test administrators need to sign both? Reply: There was some confusion about the TAKS-M General Oath after the January 20 email was received. Teachers do not need to sign both general oaths– either general oath is fine. All TA must sign the administration-specific oath for the test(s) they administer. The TAKS-M General Oath is now posted on the TEA website.

## **TPM Update – Shannon Housson**

### Questions:

- What can we expect as far as TPM in 2010? Reply: After receiving impact data from 2009 TPM, TEA recognizes that it helped districts. Focus groups are coming in this spring. They will be looking at the impact of TAKS (Accommodated) on the ratings. The standard for Recognized is increasing this year to 80%, math and science academically acceptable standards are increasing 5% each. The focus group will look at TPM, Required Improvement, Exceptions and how everything works together in the accountability system. They will look at different proposed scenarios on March 4-5. They will post recommendations for 2010 Accountability and Beyond on March 22. These recommendations will be available for about two weeks. Final decisions are expected in early April and the manual will be released in May.
- Is it possible to get individual TPM report pdfs by individual student rather than by campus? Reply: There is no plan to do that this year. They may look at it for next year.

## **New Ethnicity Coding – Shannon Housson**

### Questions:

- When will districts know how the new coding will affect accountability? Reply: There will be NO impact on 2010 state and federal ratings. The dilemma is that the 2010-2011 PEIMS collection will only include the new race and ethnicity definitions. There is no option to submit the old codes next year. TEA would have liked to end the old accountability system with the old coding but that won’t

happen. The problem is how to use the new coding with the old system. For example, what about students submitted with two or more races? In 2011, these students will have their own category, but for accountability purposes will they be put into one of the three existing student groups or will they be placed in the "All Students" group only or will there be a change in student groups for this last year of the current accountability system? This will be another discussion for the spring focus group. Performance Reporting welcomes suggestions about how to solve this dilemma.

- From Region 13: Why are we collecting this new coding on the 2010 answer docs when it won't be used? Reply: We need this information to know something about how these new designations will affect reporting. It is probably useful for districts to know how your students are performing under these new designations too. TAKS documents in spring always reflect what is collected in PEIMS during the fall. The 2010 answer docs have both designations – old and new.
- From Region 10: Is there anything we can do to keep both designations for another year? Petitions? Reply: No, districts would have difficulty submitting the definitions both ways for another year.

### **Incident Reporting from 2008-2009 – Cathy Kline**

#### Question:

- When will districts know the resolution of incident reporting for 2008-2009? Reply: We apologize for the delay. The Training Module production consumed a lot of time during the past year and the amount of incidents received doubled in the last four years. TEA will attempt to address the most severe incidents in the next month and get to the rest as soon as possible. Another wrinkle: All state agencies have been asked to submit a plan for a 5% decrease in their budgets. Many vacancies in Student Assessment may not be filled so personnel will be short. The response times may continue to be slow until the problems ease up a bit.

#### Calendar Question:

- The state testing calendar for 2010-11 has the first administration of the SSI tests starting on Monday, April 4 with day two on April 5. Why are we starting on Monday rather than Tuesday? Reply: They wanted all the make-up sessions and DBA to be done by Thursday April 7. LAT is no longer on Monday for this first administration and districts had been accustomed to starting that on Monday. This will allow districts to get a jump on shipping and hopefully, results.

### **Data File – Cathy Kline**

#### Questions:

- It became known that the item-level data was not going to be provided in the data file except in years when the test is released. We do not understand why and would like to advocate that this data continue to be included because even in years when the tests are not released, the information is very helpful to instructional staff in the districts. Reply: The current plan is that beginning with spring 2010 the data files will indicate individual student performance on an item as "yes or no." The file will indicate whether the student got an item correct or not. A separate text file will be included showing the objective and SE, linked with each test item. Previously, this student-level item information didn't come until summer. This information will be provided in non-release years only. They will go back to the full item analysis (Primary administrations only) on release years.
- Districts expressed appreciation for the compromise and asked if the information will be coming in a letter. Reply: Correspondence will come as soon as all the decisions are finalized.
- It has not been determined whether or not tests will be released on the first year of STAAR which is the next scheduled test release year.

### **PEARSON – Paul Matson**

#### **EOC Reporting** - In 2010 there are three EOC groups:

- English 1 and Algebra II field tests – no reports for those students
- Operational tests on paper – Pearson will attempt to get all reports (CSRs and Lists of Student Results) within 5-10 days posted on the the eMeasurement system.
- Operational tests online – Districts will receive reports online within 24 hours on the eMeasurement system. There will be CSRs and Lists of Student Results. Algebra I is the only test with standard scores, the others will only report raw scores.
- The data file and summary reports will come later in mid-to late June. Both will be in the same format as last year.

## History File Updates

### Questions/Comments:

- Could a data file be submitted for correcting the suspect history? Reply: We cannot do that this year due to the time required to develop a routine for this, but Pearson is willing to send districts new files so they can see if their students have been cleaned up. There will be emails and more information sent back to the districts to let them know that new files have been posted. 30,000 listings have been corrected so far, but there is still a way to go.
- Apostrophes and hyphens have created suspect files in the past. Hyphens and apostrophes have been removed from the files so if the district doesn't bubble them on a hand-gridded answer document, the files should match.
- If there are records the district cannot fix because additional information is required, what should they do? Reply: Call Sarah S. (??) at the usual 800- number.
- Districts can also send information to Pearson (AOC Answers email) and they will take care of the suspect files.
- Problem: If a matching error was created in a former district and the student has moved, the receiving district will not know the file is suspect. Reply: After the first test administration, these students will be flagged for clean up.
- Problem: Some district lawyers are telling their districts that it is a FERPA violation to send certain documents to Pearson to correct suspect histories. Can districts send in some kind of alternate documentation rather than the actual social security cards and birth certificates? Paul said he would look into this and respond. Stacy requested that if there is a change and we do not have to send in actual documents, that Pearson send a broadcast email.
- Comment from Region 13: It is really difficult to clean up the records having to go into each one. Please consider allowing a file upload next year.

## Manual Procedures – Cathy Kline

TEA recognizes the discomfort in the field over the limits on General Test Administrator manuals. There was a new formula adopted this year (1 manual to every 15 students with a 20% overage). They increased the formula from last year and still had substantial requests for additional orders this year. They do not have the funds to print any more. To clarify: TEA does not require all testing personnel on the campus to have a hard copy of the manual in hand. But they DO require that every test administrator must have a manual during a test session. There is a possibility of sharing manuals if the schedule permits. Testing personnel can also share manuals at training sessions and/or read it online. She implored districts to try to help find a way to work around this problem. TEA will revisit the manual formulas again next year.

Paul Matson commented that they still have a few general TAKS manuals available. If districts have substantial need they can order now and the orders will be filled until they run out.

### Comments:

- There is a problem with using the formula based on last year's enrollment. Fast-growing school districts were really shorted. Some new schools in districts got nothing.
- If we are going to have to print these manuals in the districts, we need to know up front to put the costs in the budget
- It would really help to order manuals during fall enrollment. Perhaps DCCMs are being overprinted and funds could be redirected to other manuals. Reply: Thanks for the suggestion to redistribute costs. However, ordering at fall enrollment might be too late for the current print schedule.