

Instructional Issues

New Testing Structure (Tests in red are new and tests in green are deleted)

Grade	Tests
3	Reading, Math
4	Reading and Writing, Science, Math
5	Reading and Writing, Social Studies, Math, Science
6	Reading and Writing, Math
7	Reading and Writing, Math
8	Reading and Writing, Social Studies, Math, Science
8	Nationally norm-referenced test for diagnostic purposes
9-11	End of course in Algebra I, II, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, English I, II, III, world geography, world history, U. S. history. TAKS
10	PSAT

If reading and writing are one test, how will it be scored given the different scoring methods used by the two tests?

8th grade is overloaded with tests and as a result too much time is going to be spent testing and prepping for tests. *Algebra 1 + TAKS!*

Why is there is no EOC for IPC?

It requires the EOC to count as 15% of the course grade. Is that the second semester course grade? Will the scores on the EOC be back in time for grades to be calculated?

Do teachers still give final exams? If so, what percentage of the grade are they?

Will teachers be involved in the development of the EOC exams?

Will the EOC exams be course specific i.e. will the III A English AP EOC be specific to that class?

What about mid term and mid semester transfers?

Will the data for the 8th grade Norm-referenced test and PSAT data be released? While PSAT to every kid instead of those who want to take it?

The bill adds optional questions to measure college readiness. Are those only on the 11th grade test?

The optional questions don't count for the kids score, but it adds an indicator for the percentage of students who attained a score that would exempt them from the TASP. I

think this is a problem since the kids who aren't thinking about going to college aren't going to care about the questions.

It requires that any assessment instruments developed be required to determine annual student improvement. Can value added be built in a criterion referenced test? How will this be used?

Can this be done well by September 2009?

Legal Issues

Section 39.0301

After completing all investigations into cheating, TEA shall disclose the identity of each district investigated. Why? If nothing was wrong why would you release the district?

Section 39.0302

It gives the Commissioner Subpoena authority. Why?

Section 39.0303 p-17

It makes it a Class C Misdemeanor to disclose the contents of any portion of a secure test instrument including the answer to any item in the assessment instrument. Why are criminalizing this? Folks can lose their jobs and their certifications—isn't that enough?