

My name is Jill Van Plew and I am a Special Education teacher in South San Antonio ISD. The area of concern I would like to address today is state accountability testing. As you are aware, there are 4 TAKS tests available to our students, the standard TAKS, TAKS Accommodated, TAKS M and TAKS Alt. However, not all students fit neatly into one of these categories.

Students who are serviced in special education are below grade level and are not performing at the same level or rate as their peers. If students could test and pass at their enrolled grade level they would not need to be in special education classes.

which clearly showed student progress from year to year. I do not feel the new accountability system appropriately measures individual student growth.

I believe that continuing to require special through the new state accountability system is going to leave students behind. Students experience high levels of frustration, trying to learn material that is clearly not at their level. If we continue to require these students to test at levels that are not realistic for their ability, they may experience repeated failure and will be at greater risk for becoming high school drop outs.