

Background Information for Key Dates for 2004 AYP Process

Release of 2004 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status

- **Revisions to state plan required:** States were required by the United States Department of Education (USDE) to revise the AYP plans approved in 2003 to implement new requirements related to use of alternative assessment results for students with disabilities in the AYP indicators. Under the USDE calendar, proposals were to be submitted by April 1, 2004, for approval by May 1, 2004. Final federal regulations were published in the Federal Register December 2003. Additional policy guidance regarding the state proposals was released by USDE February 24, March 9, and March 29, 2004.
- **SDAA unique to Texas:** The Texas Education Agency (TEA) proposal for implementing new AYP regulations was submitted to the USDE April 1, 2004. Final USDE decisions were received on July 29, 2004. The lengthy negotiations resulted, in part, from the unique situation created by the State-Developed Alternative Assessment – no other state has an alternative assessment that is required by statute to measure growth against expectations established by the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee.
- **Extended negotiations:** Originally, both the state accountability ratings and AYP status were planned for release on September 30. Extended negotiations between USDE and TEA delayed AYP by three months. Therefore, the release of AYP information will be later than last year and will not be aligned with the release of state accountability ratings.
- **Most critical decisions finalized last:** The most critical issues affecting the way student test scores will be counted in AYP were the last decisions to be finalized with the USDE. Because these decisions affect the initial stages of performance measure calculations, the AYP process could not begin until they were finalized.
- **Extensive redesign required:** Implementing a new accountability system (state or federal) involves developing, writing, testing, and documenting over 100 new computer programs; performing and checking complex calculations; and designing new guidelines, reports, and web sites to communicate the information to audiences ranging from technical staff in the school districts to the public.

AYP Appeals Before Release of 2004 AYP Status

Since the AYP criteria are substantially different and more complex than last year, districts will be allowed to review preliminary data generated by the new system and will have an opportunity to appeal those data before AYP status is released.

- **Measures new to districts:** Districts have never seen the performance measures that will be used to determine 2004 AYP status. Calculation of the AYP performance measures will be based on USDE decisions that require TEA to:
 - combine results across the following tests into a single measure:
 - Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)
 - State-Developed Alternative Assessment (SDAA)
 - Reading Proficiency Tests in English (RPTE)
 - Locally-Determined Alternative Assessments (LDAA)
 - count certain “passing” test scores as “failing” scores
 - combine results across grade 3-8 and 10, excluding results for grades 9 and 11 (because standards had to be set in 2002 before grades 9 and 11 were tested)
- **New rules implemented through appeals:** Some USDE decisions cannot be implemented in 2004 because of the late date of the decisions or because the relevant data are not currently available to TEA. The appeals process provides the only mechanism to implement the following USDE decisions.
 - Exceptions to the 1% cap on use of alternative assessment results in the performance rates
 - Exceptions to the 95% participation rate standard for students not tested due to medical emergencies
 - Exceptions to the 70% four-year graduation rate standard for students with disabilities who have 5-year graduation plans and recently arrived immigrants with limited English proficiency
 - Evaluating performance of only Title I students for targeted assistance schools