



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEB 17 2012

Dr. Criss Cloudt
Associate Commissioner
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

Dear Dr. Cloudt:

This letter is in response to Texas' proposal to do a bridge study between the new assessment, the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR), and the old State assessment, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Texas is proposing to use a bridge study because during the transition to a new assessment system, STAAR, performance standards will not be available for most STAAR assessments in time to assign adequate yearly progress (AYP) statuses in the summer 2012.

The Department reviewed the proposed Texas bridge study and found that the plan was feasible. The Department understands that the results of the bridge study will identify the *Met Standard* of performance standard for the previous assessment, TAKS, on the STAAR assessment for only 2012. The results of the bridge study will be used in grades 3-8 for the STAAR reading and mathematics, STAAR EOC English I reading and Algebra I for enrolled grade 8, STAAR Modified reading and mathematics, STAAR Alternate reading and mathematics, and for grade 10 the STAAR Alternate English I, Algebra I, English II, and Geometry.

The STAAR bridge study consists of three stages: content overlap analysis, empirical analysis, and impact data analysis. Content alignment, or overlap, analyses will determine whether there is sufficient shared content between the two assessments so that mapping the TAKS *Met Standard* performance standards onto the STAAR assessments will result in a meaningful interpretation. The empirical analyses will statistically map the TAKS *Met Standard* performance standard to the STAAR 2012 assessments using student performance data. The impact data analyses can provide supplemental data to support the results from the empirical analyses. The Texas Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) reviewed the bridge study plan. The Department would like the TTAC to review the results of the bridge study and make recommendations if any issues are identified. The Department would like the results of the bridge study and the TTAC report to be submitted to the Department in June, 2012. Texas Education Agency may use the results of the bridge study for the STAAR for purposes of AYP reporting for 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Carlos.Martinez@ed.gov or Grace A. Ross at 202-260-0967 or Grace.Ross@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Carlos Martinez
Group Leader for Standards,
Assessments and Accountability

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