

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to let you know of a change that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has made in testing procedures for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Beginning in spring 2008, students in grades 9, 10, and exit level were asked to sign an honor statement before taking TAKS tests. In spring 2009 this measure was extended to students taking TAKS–Modified (TAKS–M) tests. The honor statement is shown below. This statement will be printed on each student’s answer sheet, and students will be asked to sign it before the test begins.

By signing my name, I agree that I will not give or receive unauthorized assistance during the test. I understand that giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during the test is cheating and may result in the invalidation of my test results.

“Invalidation” of test results means that the student’s test would not be scored and the student would not receive test results.

The TAKS tests are required by both state and federal law. The test results are used to monitor and improve public education for all Texas students. The addition of an honor statement is one of several steps the state of Texas is taking to ensure that each student’s test results are an accurate indicator of his or her academic performance. Other state testing programs and college entrance exams include similar honor statements.

I hope that I can count on your support of this new procedure.

Sincerely,
Nancy C. Roberts
Director of Assessment