

INSIGHTS FOR PARENTS

Important information to help parents prepare for TAKS

TAKS Testing Dates

Feb. 20	Reading: Grades 3, 5, 9 Writing: Grades 4, 7 ELA: Grades 10, 11 (Exit)
March 5-30	TELPAS (LEP)
April 3	Math: Grade 5
April 17	Math: Grades 3-4, 6-8 and 10
April 18	Reading: Grades 4, 6-8 Reading Retest: Grades 3, 5 Exit Math: Grade 11
April 19	Science: Grades 5, 8, 10 and 11 (Exit) Math: Grade 9
April 20	Social Studies: Grades 8, 10 and 11 (Exit)
May 15	Math Retest: Grade 5
June 26	Math Retest: Grade 5
June 27	Reading Retest: Grade 3, 5

Q: Do all students take the TAKS test?

A: All students in grades three through 11 are required by law to take the TAKS test with the exception of students who take an alternative exam.

Special Education: As determined by the Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee, and based on a student’s educational program, the following alternative tests may be administered to those who qualify for special education services:

- the State Developed Alternative Assessment (SDAA II) exam;
- the TAKS-I; or
- the Locally Determined Alternative Assessment (LDAA).

Limited English Proficient (LEP): Understandably, recent immigrants to Texas may not possess sufficient English skills to take the TAKS test. Therefore, reading skills may be evaluated on the reading proficiency test in English, and math skills may be evaluated on the Linguistically Accomodated TAKS Math test.

Q: Does TAKS impact graduation?

A: Yes. Each student, by law, must pass the exit-level TAKS test—in addition to earning the credits for required coursework—in order to receive a high school diploma. TAKS exams are given to 11th-grade students in the following four subject areas: English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. If a student fails any subject-area test, multiple retest opportunities are available.

Q: What do students need to know to be prepared for the TAKS test?

A: The state-mandated curriculum, which is called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), defines what students should know and the skills they must acquire. In Texas, a teacher’s daily lessons, units, projects and regular tests are based on the TEKS. The TAKS assessment is aligned with the TEKS curriculum, which allows TAKS to serve as a measurement determining how well students have learned the TEKS (the curriculum that is taught) in the core subject-areas during the course of the year.

Q: Is more information available about TAKS or TEKS?

A: For more information about the state-testing and accountability program, visit the Texas Education Agency website at www.tea.state.tx.us. In addition, CFISD has published *Nailing Down the TAKS*, a parent handbook, which is posted on the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District website at www.cfisd.net.

Tips for parents on how to impact student learning

In general:

- Be interested. Ask what happened today at school.
- Ask to see your child’s school papers.
- Visit stores, museums, festivals, etc., with your child and discuss what your child learned.
- Let your child know that education is a priority.
- Encourage your child to ask the teacher questions.

Homework:

- When your child has homework to do, make sure it gets done.
- Plan a time and a place in your home for your child to study.
- Have your child sit at a table or desk with good light when he/ she studies, not in front of the television.
- If your child never brings work home, find out why. High school courses require study.

Books:

- Encourage your child to bring books home from school to read.
- Take your child to the public library.
- Ask your child to read aloud to you.
- Model your personal enjoyment for reading.

Computer:

- Investigate programs to encourage interests and aid in learning.
- Use the Internet as a research tool for completing assignments.

Television:

- Know how long your child watches television. Don’t be afraid to limit the number of hours watched.
- Know what your child watches on television. Discuss the programs together. (What was the show about? What are the characters’ names? What happened first? How did the show end? What might have happened instead? Could it happen in real life? etc.)
- Make dinner time a conversation time rather than watching television.

On test day, you can help your children by ensuring they get plenty of sleep the night before the test; have breakfast; get to school on time; and communicate your confidence in their success.