STATE BOARD FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION/TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
TEXAS EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION
TExES/ExCET TOPT TExMaT TASC/TASC-ASL

TEA/ETS Newsletter—March 2008 for Educator Preparation Programs

The focus of the TEA/ETS Newsletter is on upcoming events, reminders about important deadlines, and suggestions on how to improve the test-taker experience, test center recruitment updates, and other important announcements regarding the Texas Educator Certification Testing Programs. Suggestions for improving this newsletter are welcome and may be submitted to Rick Cullors via e-mail at **rcullors@ets.org**.

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WHAT'S NEW

New Test Fee Approved for 2008-09

On March 7, 2008, the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) approved a "universal test fee" of $120 that will take effect on September 1, 2008. This means that $120 will be charged for a test regardless of whether it is delivered via computer or paper. The $35 CAT surcharge fee will no longer apply.

International Surcharge

Beginning April 25, 2008, examinees testing at international CAT test centers will be charged an additional international test center fee of $50. This fee will help cover the additional costs associated with testing students outside the United States.

2008-09 Testing Schedule

As a result of the initiative to increase computer-administered testing, the number of paper-based TExES/ExCET test administrations will be reduced to five in the 2008-09 testing year. By September 2008, ETS is contracted to deliver seven additional CAT tests, thus resulting in less demand for paper-based test administrations. The number of TExMaT administrations will be reduced to three per testing year. The 2008-09 schedule for paper-based testing is provided below:

TExES, ExCET, and TExMaT

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Emergency Registration Deadline	Score Reporting Date for Multiple-Choice Tests Only	Score Reporting Date for Multiple-Choice and Written-Response Tests
11/08/08	10/10/08	10/17/08	10/31/08	12/01/08	12/08/08
01/31/09 (all tests offered except TExMaT)	01/02/09	01/09/09	01/23/09	02/23/09	03/02/09
04/04/09	03/06/09	03/13/09	03/27/09	04/27/09	05/04/09
06/27/09 (all tests offered except TExMaT)	05/29/09	06/05/09	06/19/09	07/20/09	07/27/09
08/29/09	07/31/09	08/07/09	08/21/09	09/21/09	09/28/09

NOTE: Monday testing is on the Monday following the regular administration.

Texas Oral Proficiency Tests (TOPT)

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Emergency Registration Deadline	Score Reporting Date
10/25/08	09/26/08	10/03/08	10/17/08	11/24/08
02/21/09	01/23/09	01/30/09	02/13/09	03/23/09
05/16/09	04/17/09	04/24/09	05/08/09	06/15/09

Texas Assessment of Sign Communication (TASC and TASC-ASL)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Score Reporting Date
11/22/08	10/24/08	12/22/08
04/18/09	03/20/09	05/18/09

Statewide Summary Reports Posting Schedule

The CAT and PBT Statewide Summary Reports provide a summary of test takers' aggregated test scores based on the testing program (TExES/ExCET, TExMaT, TOPT, and TASC/TASC–ASL) and the associated Educator Preparation Program.

The CAT Statewide Summary Report, which is based on an administration month, is posted one month following the end of the administration month. The PBT Statewide Summary Report, which is based on administration date, is posted the next business day following the reporting of the multiple-choice/constructed-response scores for TExES/ExCET and TExMaT tests and constructed-response scores for the TOPT and TASC/TASC–ASL tests. See the chart below for posting dates.

Schedule for Posting 2008 Statewide Summary Reports

TEST TYPE	TEST DATE	POST DATE
TExES PBT	December 8, 2007	January 7
TExES CAT and MTT	January 1 to 31	March 3
TOPT	February 2	March 3
TExES PBT	February 23	March 24
TExES CAT and MTT	February 1 to 29	April 1
TExES CAT and MTT	March 1 to 31	May 1
TASC/TASC–ASL	April 5	May 5
TExES PBT	April 19	May 19
TExES CAT and MTT	April 1 to 30	June 2
TOPT PBT	May 3	June 2
TExES CAT and MTT	May 1 to 31	July 1
TExES PBT	June 21	July 21
TExES CAT and MTT	June 1 to 30	August 1
TExES CAT and MTT	July 1 to 31	September 2
TExES PBT	August 2	September 2
TExES CAT and MTT	August 1 to 31	October 1
TExES CAT and MTT	September 1 to 30	November 3
TOPT	October 25	November 24
TExES CAT and MTT	October 1 to 31	December 1
TExES PBT	November 8	December 8
TASC/TASC–ASL	November 22	December 22
TExES CAT and MTT	November 1 to 30	January 2, 2009
TExES CAT and MTT	December 1 to 31	February 2, 2009

On-Site Scoring for CAT Administrations to End

Candidate confusion about the CAT end-of-test score report issued at the test centers has led the TEA to decide to eliminate this score report. The last CAT administration where the end-of-test

score report will be available is April 8, 2008. **Please inform your interns/educators about this change.**

The end-of-test score report indicated the number of questions answered correctly and served as proof that an examinee had taken a TExES computer-administered test. It did not indicate the examinee's scaled score or passing status and was not intended to be an official report of final scores.

Final scores for CAT testing are mailed and posted on the ETS TExES website at ***www.texes.ets.org*** within seven days of the test date.

Important Documents Posted on SBEC Website

The test framework for the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) has been posted on the SBEC website at **www.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/standtest/draft/draftedstan.asp**. Current plans are for registration for BTLPT (offered via computer) to open in December 2008, with the first testing window to be in mid-January 2009.

The updated Standards for the Generalist EC–6 have been posted in the announcement section of the ASEP and SBEC websites.

Upcoming Master Technology Teacher (MTT) Test Administration Windows

The MTT test is offered every other month during a one- or two-week administration window at specially equipped computer-administered test centers. The next MTT administration windows are **Monday, April 21 through Saturday, April 26** and **Monday, June 9 through Saturday, June 21**. Candidates wishing to take the MTT test are encouraged to register well in advance of the upcoming administration window in order to secure registration for their preferred test dates and test centers. Dates for subsequent administration windows will be announced in future newsletters.

HAPPENINGS

CAT System Maintenance

System maintenance will be performed on the computer-administered testing (CAT) system from approximately 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (Central time) on Sunday, April 6, 2008. **During this time, test takers will NOT be able to register, reschedule, or cancel any CAT exams. Other functions will continue to be available.**

System maintenance will also be performed on the CAT system from approximately 6:00 a.m. (Central time) on Wednesday, April 9, until approximately 11:59 p.m. (Central time) on Friday, April 18. **CAT exams (including MTT) will not be delivered during this time.**

ETS TExES Online Registration System Maintenance

System maintenance will be performed on the ETS TExES online registration system from Saturday, April 26 until Monday, April 28. This maintenance is needed to apply system changes in preparation for the 2008-09 testing year. During this time the system will be offline and unavailable to your educators as well as EPP Administrators. Please let your educators know that they will not be able to register for tests or perform any other functions in the ETS TExES online registration system until after the system maintenance period has ended on April 28. **The projected times for this system maintenance, once they are available, will be posted on the ETS TExES web site at www.texes.ets.org.**

Representative Tests Available for Purchase

Representative forms of the TExES and TExMaT tests have been developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS). Representative Tests are used at SBEC-approved Educator Preparation Programs throughout Texas and are designed exclusively to assist staff in measuring candidates' knowledge

and skills in relation to the approved TExES and TExMaT test frameworks. They are also useful in preparing certification candidates for testing.

There are currently 40 Representative Tests available for purchase through the EPP section of the ETS TExES website at **www.texes.ets.org**. This number includes the three new Representative Tests — Health, Physical Education and Music — that were released in 2007. Five new Representative Tests will become available in September 2008: Art, Business Education, Technology Applications, Chemistry, and Bilingual Target Language Proficiency (BTLPT). Each Representative Test CD-ROM includes: the test framework, a test administration manual, the test form, an answer key, and an answer sheet. (**Note**: The original 37 representative tests that were offered by the previous testing vendor have **not** been revised.)

Training Sessions Scheduled for EPP Administrators

If you need a quick overview on how to view roster or score reports, or you simply need to learn how to access ETS's new online administrative portal, please plan to participate in one or more of the free interactive online training sessions scheduled for March through June 2008. Information about how to participate in the March 2008 session will be sent via e-mail from the EPPAdmin mailbox on or around March 19, 2008. Information about how to participate in the April through June 2008 sessions will be sent on or around April 9, 2008. If you do not receive this information, please send an e-mail to **EPPAdmin@ets.org**. See the scheduled dates, times, and topics below.

Date	Time	Topic	Estimated Duration
March 27, 2008	1:00 p.m. CT	How to View Score Reports	30-45 minutes
April 17, 2008	1:00 p.m. CT	How to View Roster Reports	30-45 minutes
May 15, 2008	1:00 p.m. CT	How to View Score Reports	30-45 minutes
June 19, 2008	1:00 p.m. CT	How to View Roster Reports	30-45 minutes

"How to View Score Reports" demonstrates how to log into the system, search for candidates, and view a candidate's specific registration record(s) and ETS eligibility. It also shows users how to view and print the CAT Program Alphabetical Roster Score Report, PBT Program Alphabetical Roster Score Report, CAT Statewide Summary Score Report, PBT Statewide Summary Score Report, and how to download the EPP Score Result File.

"How to View Roster Reports" demonstrates how to log into the system, search for candidates, view a candidate's specific registration record(s) and ETS eligibility. It also shows users how to view and print the PBT Verification Roster, CAT Verification Roster, and Test Center/Site Attendance Roster.

Record Number of CAT Test Takers

More and more educators/interns are opting for CAT testing. A total of 4,440 CAT tests were administered in February — a record for the program. As of March 18, a total of 5,721 registrations have been processed for March 2008.

Test Preparation Materials

Check the ETS TExES website for the most up-to-date information about test preparation materials. For updated Test Preparation Manuals, visit the Preparation Materials section of the TExES website. An addendum that contains important updates for your interns/educators was recently posted at **www.texes.ets.org/assets/pdf/testprep_manuals/prep_manual_addendum.pdf**. For updates on Representative Forms, visit the EPP section of the TExES website. Information about Representative Forms can be found under Resources.

EPPAdmin Mailbox

Did you know that just about any troubleshooting issue you may have, such as getting an intern/educator registered to take a test or running reports and rosters in the ETS EPP website, can be resolved expediently by using the **EPPAdmin@ets.org** mailbox? In fact, we can assist you with troubleshooting practically any registration, test administration, or score reporting issue except those involving an educator's profile in the SBEC Online system. We encourage you to make sending an e-mail to this mailbox your first attempt to resolve all other issues.

TEST ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Test Center Region Listings

Please help us ensure that we have all test centers associated with the correct region. If you notice one that is listed incorrectly, please send an e-mail to **EPPAdmin@ets.org** and let us know.

New Computer-Administered Test Centers

Region 1—Edinburg
Test Center: STN12921A *(MTT test offered at this center)*
Teacher Builder
15 North Park Plaza
Brownsville, TX 78521

Region 2—Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (STN12774A)
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi Hall
Room 206 (Microcomputer Lab)
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Region 10—Richardson
MicroTek – Dallas (STN13036A)
5430 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway
Three Lincoln Centre
Suite 300, Room 1
Dallas, TX 75240

Region 13—Austin
Business Communication Solutions (STN13232A) (*MTT test offered at this center)*
Pflugerville Executive Suites
2700 Pecan Street West
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Region 15—San Angelo
Angelo State University (STN13167A / STN13167B)
The Porter Henderson Library
2025 South Johnson
3rd Floor, C302-C304
San Angelo, TX 76909

Reporting Address Changes for Computer-Administered Test Centers

Region 1—Edinburg
Teacher Builder (STN12791A) *(MTT test offered at this center)*
2524 West Freddy Gonzalez Drive
(Located In Former "$1.50 Cleaners" Space)
Edinburg, TX 78539

Reporting Address Changes for Paper-Based Test Centers

Region 4—Houston
Texas Southern University (a more detailed address than previously given)
New Science Building
2900 Eagle St. at Ennis St.
Houston, TX 77004

Region 10—Richardson
Garland High School will not be available for testing on April 19. All candidates registered for this center have been transferred to:

Eastfield College
3737 Motley Drive
Room C 114
Mesquite, TX 75150

IMPORTANT DATES REMINDER

2008-09 Annual Updates and Registration Opening

Following are the dates for the 2008-09 annual updates and the opening of registration for paper-based testing.

- **Monday, August 4 through Sunday, August 10:** Online registration system annual update period. Candidates will not be able to access the online registration system during this time.
- **Monday, August 11:** Full access to the online registration system will be available. Paper-based test registration opens for the 2008-09 testing year.

CONTACTING THE PROGRAM

Questions About Testing Programs

If you have questions about any aspect of the Texas Educator Certification testing programs, please e-mail your questions to **EPPAdmin@ets.org**.

Test takers with general questions should direct their inquiries to the Call Center at **1-800-205-2626** or e-mail **texes-excet_inquiries@ets.org**.

Test Center Complaints

Every effort is made to ensure the success of all test administrations and minimize the possibility of distractions or problems. A test taker who has a complaint about a test center or the conditions under which a test was taken should submit the complaint **in writing directly to ETS** in order for it to be addressed properly. ETS will acknowledge receipt of the complaint, launch an investigation, and respond to the test taker with status/results of the investigation within 15 business days. See contact information below. Complaints must be postmarked no later than 7 days after the test date.

Paper-Based Tests
ETS–Texas Educator Certification Program
Test Administration Services
Mail Stop 34-Q
Princeton, NJ 08541-6051
Fax: 1-609-771-7710
E-mail: TexasTas@ets.org

Computer-Based Tests
ETS–Texas Educator Certification Program
CAT Complaints
P.O. Box 6051
Princeton, NJ 08541-6051
Fax: 1-609-530-0581
E-mail: TexasCAT@ets.org