

A Guide to the Texas Projection Measure

1. What is the Texas Projection Measure?

The Texas Projection Measure (TPM) is an estimate of whether a student is likely to pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests at a future grade. This measure is based on (1) a student's current performance on TAKS and (2) the TAKS scores from all students in the campus that a student attends.

2. Why did Texas develop the TPM?

In 2006 and 2007, the Texas legislature passed legislation that required Texas to measure student progress over time. The TPM was developed to meet that requirement.

3. In what subjects and grades will the TPM be reported in 2009?

TPM will be reported in TAKS mathematics, reading, English language arts, science, social studies, and writing. The table below shows the grade from which and the grade to which the TPM will be applied for all subjects (reading/English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) except writing. In writing, students will be projected from grade 4 to grade 7, since writing is assessed only at grades 4 and 7 in elementary and middle school.

Grade From	Grade To
3	5
4	5*
5	8
6	8
7	8
8	11
9	11
10	11

*Students will be projected from grade 4 to grade 7 in writing.

4. When will a student *not* have a TPM reported?

Most students will have a TPM reported for all subjects. However, in some situations, students will not have a TPM reported in spring 2009. There are three reasons why students would not have a TPM reported. First, students who do not have enough test scores to calculate the TPM will not receive a projection. For example, if a student did not test this year in either reading or mathematics, the student will not have a TPM in any subject in 2009. Second, the grade 8 TAKS science test has not been given for enough years to have projections from grade 8 to grade 11 science, so students in grade 8 will not have a TPM for science in 2009. However, students who are in grade 8 in 2010 will have a TPM for science. Third, students who take TAKS in different languages may not have a TPM reported. For example, a student who takes Spanish TAKS reading and English TAKS mathematics will not have a TPM reported for any subject.

5. What does "YES" mean? What does "NO" mean?

If a student has a "YES" for the Texas Projection Measure, it means that the student is estimated, or projected, to pass at a future grade (grade 5, 8, or 11). For instance, if a third grade student has "Texas Projection Measure–Projected to Meet Standard at Grade 5: YES" on her report for reading, it means that she is likely to pass the grade 5 reading test after receiving instruction in grades 4 and 5. Likewise, a "NO" means that the student is not projected to pass at a future grade. For instance, if a seventh grade student has "Texas Projection Measure–Projected to Meet Standard at Grade 8: NO" on his report for mathematics, it means that he is not projected to pass the grade 8 mathematics test. Projections about performance in future grades can benefit students by helping parents and schools better understand where students need additional instruction and support to strengthen their skills. By strengthening their skills, students increase their chances of passing TAKS in a future grade.

6. If a fourth grade student has a “YES” for the TPM and is estimated to pass in grade 5, does that mean that the student will pass in grade 5?

No. The TPM is a projection. In other words, it is a best estimate. Many factors influence how the student will actually score on TAKS in a future grade.

7. A vertical scale score will be used in reading and mathematics in grades 3–8 beginning in spring 2009. How will the TPM and the vertical scale be used together?

The vertical scale allows a comparison between a student’s current score on TAKS and his or her previous score. The TPM takes a student’s current score and uses it to project whether or not the student will be successful in future years. The difference in the two is that the vertical scale allows comparisons to past performance and the TPM projects future performance.

8. Where can I go for more information about the TPM?

More information about the TPM can be found on the TEA website at

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/growth_proposal/index.html