

Science Update Frequently Asked Questions

With many changes happening currently in science, we are frequently asked how these changes will affect our member districts. Below is a list of questions that have been asked by district personnel. A response from TEA follows each question. Please understand that TEA is still in the process of finalizing details of the transition plan. As new information becomes available, we will update you in a timely manner.

Does Texas plan to rewrite the Science TEKS to match up with the new national standards?

TEA response: Texas is not participating in common core at this time. We will keep a close eye on this and make decisions at a later time if we feel it is necessary.

What teachers may teach the CTE courses that have been approved as 4th year courses? What about Earth and Space Science?

TEA response: No decision has been made regarding this question.

Will there be a transition period for EOC as there is for TAKS?

TEA response: New TEKS will be tested on the EOC for that course in the same year those TEKS are implemented.

Will TAKS scores affect accountability in 2013?

TEA response: No decision has been made regarding this question.

Will the new Science TAKS (5th and 8th grade) have the same passing standard as the current test? Will it be lowered as it was during the original phase in?

TEA response: No final decision has been made, but it would make sense to phase the test in as it has been in the past.

Will the EOC be administered on paper as well as on the computer?

TEA response: Yes. When the EOC examinations become mandatory, rather than optional, a paper assessment will be available.

If a district is offering Physics to 9th graders, will the EOC be ready in 2012?

TEA response: Yes, the physics exam will be available.

Will students be allowed to bring their own scientific or graphing calculator for use on state assessments?

TEA response: Yes, but the district will still be responsible for clearing the memory.

What is the requirement for the safety standards manuals since they are specifically referred to in the new science TEKS?

TEA response: We recommend that each teacher have access to the safety standards manual. The original publication written by TEA should be accessible on the website free to download before next fall.