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## ABSTRACT

*Austin Independent School District. TX

This technical report details the testing results and analyses supporting the evaluation findings related to the Austin (Texas) Independent School District (AISD) minimum"competency graduation requirements. Thé graduation competency status of all AfSD students in grades 8 to 12 are documented. The report provides additional information on the data collection procedures: (1) the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, (2) \the Texas Assessment of Basic Skills, (3) the Sequential Tests of Educational Progress, and (4) the minimum competency file. Results are reported in tabular and narrative forms. (Ten Attachments are included). (Author/PN)
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Senior Evaluator: Glynn Ligan, Ph.D:

Evaluator:
Kevin Matter
7.

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT
High School Graduation Minimum Competency Requirements

June 30, 1982


Testing Technician:
Nancy Lanịer

Evaluation Assistants:
Rick Battaile
Phil Jones

Secretary:
Irene Fabian

Approved:


Publication No ، 81.76

The ITBS lis a sec of norm-referaticed examinapions designed to measure progress in che fundamental skills: Level 14 of the ITBS measures skills in Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Speliing, Capicalization, Punctuation, Usage, Visual Marsrials, Reference Marerials, Marhematics Concepes; Marhemarics Problem Solving, sad Machematics Computarion. Ộly the Rểading Total and Mathematics Total scores ardersed for minimum competency purposes.

To whom was the instrument administered?
All scudents in grade 8, and students in grades $9-12$ wtio atcended a ${ }^{*}$ Kpecial session or took a math or reading tutorial course. Grade 8 students enrolled in integratied or self-contained special aducation classes were exempt from teating; Non-English speaking students were not exempt. Any exempt special education students were tested at the school's discrecion. S'corges for students who are monolingual or dominant in a language other chan English were not tncluded in the school or Districi summaries.

How many $c$ imes was the instrument administersd?
Once per year to each grader stodenc, once each semester at each high schooi in a special session, and one astre Einal exam in all math or reading rutorial classes.

When was the instrument adminiscered?
The ITBS was administered to students in grade 8 on February 16, 17, and 18, with make-ups administered February 19-26. Spacial sessions*were held at various cimes throughout the year, and scudents in cycorial classes took the ITBS as their final exam.

## Where was the instrument administered?

In each AISD funior high (usually in the studenc's regular classroom), and in each high school (including Robbins and Kealigg).

Who administered the instrument?
.
In grade 8 , the counselor or princtpal administered the cests over che public address system using taped directions provided by ORE, while ceachers acted, as cest monicors in their classrooms.. In each high school, the ITBS was administered by ORE personnel only.

What riâining did the administrators have?

- In grade 8 , Building Test Coordinators parcicipated in planaing sessions prior to the cesting. Teacher training was the responsibility of che Building Test Coordinator; howver, ceacher inservice training was available from ORE upon request. Teachers and counselors recefved wricten. instryctions from ORE, including a checklist of procedures and a script to follow to administer the cest in the event of a public address system malfunction.
The ORE personnel administering the high school tests are choroughily trained in test administratiod.
Was the instrument admintitered under, (standardized conditiong?
Yes. Standardized inscructions were distribuced to grade 8 administrators. Céncral adminiscration and ORE personnel monitored in a random selectiont of classrooms with results indicating that testing conditions were reasonably consistent across the District. The high school special séssions and tutorial testing also werg conducted under standardized conditions.
Were there problems, with che instrument or the administration that might affect the validity of the dara?
No known problems with the instrumenc. Problems in the administration are documented in the moaitors' reports which are ayailable ac ORE. Who developed the inscrument?
The Uafversity of Iowa. The ITBS is published by the Riverside Publishing Company (Houghton Mifflin Company).

What reliabilicy and validicy data are available on the instrument?
The rellability of che subrests, as sumarized by Kuder-Richardsoa Formula 20 coefficiencs, fanges from .82 to .98 across subrests and levels. The issues of content and constrface validicy are addressed in the publisher's preliminary cechnical summary, pages 13-15.
Are thare norm data available for interpreting the results?
The Teacher's Guide provides empirical norms (grade equivalent, percentile, stanine) for the fall, and spring. Incerpolated norms are available for, midyear. Narional, large city, and school building norms are provided.
Brief descripetion of the instrument:

The TABS is atate-mandated criterion-referenced testing program. The tests given to students in grade 9 meisure basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. Only the Reading and Mathematics subcests are used for minfmum competency purposes. Reading and Machemarics include 11 objectives each, rated by four multiple choice icems each.

1

To whom was che inscrument adminMeered?
All studencs in grade 9. Students enrolled in integrated or self-concained special educationt classes were exempt. Scudencs. in grade 10 or 11 who did not meet the tabs requiremeats on past administrations were given the option to retake the cest during chis. year's administration.

How many times tas the instrment administered?
Once per student per fear.
$R$
.
When was the instrument administered?
The TABS'was adminiscered ac each high schopl sometime between February 15 and February 19. TABS make-ups were administered the:following week, and were required for any student who missed the regular testing and who did not meet the Average Daily Attendance requirement set by AISD.

Where was the instrument administered?
In all AISD high schools (including Robbins and Kealing). Some schogls tested in large groups in cafeterias, etc.; others tested in classroom.

Who administered the instrument?
Auchorized school personnel (ceachers, counselors, and administrative staff) administered the TABS. Teachers were allowed to cest cheir own studencs.

## What training did the adminiscracors have?

Manuals concaining wricten instructions were provided to each cest adminiptracor. A two-hour workshop, as well as manuals and other written instructions, was provided by ORE to incerested school coordinators. School coordinators were responsible for craining test administiators.
Was che instrument administered under standardifnd conditions?
Instructions given were the same, but leagth of testing (the test was not timed) and
testing environments varied somewhat. testing environments varied somewhat.

1) 1

Were chete problems with the instrument or the adminigtration thatemight affect the validity of the data?
Nope chat are known.

Who deveioped the inscrument?
Texas Education Agency (TEn).

What reliability and yalidity data are available on the instrume?
Very litcle data are avaitable on the TABS.
!

Are there norm data available (for interpreting the results?
Schools, tan compare their' performance to all ninth graders' performance across the District. Statewideperformance' data should be available by fall, 1982. Actual notms may not be provided.

Brief descripition of che instaument:
Serias 2 of the STEP is is norm-referenced high school achievement teat battery, measuring student skikls in Reading, English Expression, Mechanics of Wricing (Sperling, Capicalization, and Puncruarion), Math Compuration, Math Concepts, Social Scudies, and Scieace. Only the Reàding, Math Computacion, and Math Concepts cests are used for minimum comperency purposes. Half of the AISD high schools used Form A of the STEP and half pused Form B.

To whom was the instrument administered?
All regular high schopl scudeats, grades 9-12. Special Education students ware exempted from STEP testing at the discretion of their ARD Comitree. Syudeats with 1 imfted English proficiency were not exempt from testing, but could be excused after one test if, in the administrator's opinion, they could not be ceaced validly on the remaning cests.
Bow many cimes was the instrumenc administered?
Once per student per year. The English Expression and Social Studies cesics are alternated yearly with the Mechanics of Writing and Science tests. The Mechanics of tricing and Science cests were administered this year.

When was the instrumenc administered?
The STEP was administered on che morning's of April 6 and 7. Make-ups ware administered on two consecucive Şaturdays, April 17 and 24.

## Where was the inscmeneat adminiscered?

The STEP was adminiscered ac each AISD high school (ifcluding Robbins and Kealing). Make-ups were adminiscered at Reagan High School.

## Who administered the instrumenc?

Test instructions were given'over the public address system at each school, either by fhe counselor or by a tape recording provided by ORE. . Teachers acted as test monitors in each classroom. The make-up testing was administered and monitored by Whar training did the administrators have?
Teachers and counselors received wricter instructions from ORE, including a checklist of procedures and an exact script to follow in test administration. The ORE personnel who admintstered the make-ups were choroughly crained in administering cests.
zed Conditions?
$\frac{\text { Was the instrument administered under standardized conditions }}{\text { Yes. Standardiz }}$. personnel monitored in a random selection of classrooms with results intidicating that testiag condicions were reasonably consistent afross the District.
Were chere problems with the instrument or the administration that might affect the validity of the daca?
No known problems with the instrument. Problems in the administration, are documented in the monitors' report's.
-
Who developed tha instrument?
Educarional Testing Service (ETS).

What reliability and validity daca are available on che instrument?.. The reliability of the alternate forms, $A$ and $B$, ranges from .58 to .93. The reliability. of the subtests, as summarized by Kuder-Richardson Formula 20 coefficients, ranges from 83 to .94. . The issues of content and construct validity are addressed in the publisher's techaical report, pages 150-154.

The Minimum Competency File is a computer file coataining records of all resding or math achievement tests caken in gradas eight through twelve by each high school studeat. Inmediately following eìch set of tatt records for a student is a summary record indicating competericies met, date the student sctually met comperency ta the subject area, and otherg relevant information.

Which studeats or ocher individuals are included on che file?
Each "active" high,school scudent who has taken at least one reading or'mach achicvemant cest in grades eight through twielve. Once a student has grsduated fromi AISD (or is known to have permanently withdrawn), sll, records for that student are crapsfarred ta a "Competancy Ristory File."

How offen is information on the file added, deleced, or updaced?
After each administration of a competency test and as any discrepanchus reported.

Who is sesponsible for changing or addiag information to che file?
Minimum Competency progratimer and other Minimum Competency staff in ORE.

## How was the information epatained on the Eile gachered?

The information was, gathered through standardized procedures.
0.

Are chere problems whth the information on the file that may aifect che validity of the data?
A simall error rate occurs from.ineorrect student numbers.

That data ara available conceming, ehe accuract and reliability of che infornacion on ehe Eila?
Schools report errors found. All discrapsacies are resolved and corresced by ORE.
 resui=s?
The file concains longitudinal data. A Minimum Competency History records which, are not current.

## 3r-aztiesc=iption of tha Elie lavout:

Each hecord for a student contains al record sumarizing competency information, foilowed by a listing of each comperençy rest taken.

This technical report supports the findings summarized in the 1981-82 Evaluation Findings Volume; publication* \#umber 81.30, Chapter V...

This evaluation was conducted to documett, the graduation competency status of all. AISD students in grades $8-12$. ;The findings reported here are relevant to the following accountabflity question (D1) program questions (q2, D3, and D4) , and their related evaluation questions.

Decịsion Question D1: Are the minimum competency for graduation requirements at the appropriate level?

Evaluation Question D1-1: What was the status of the 1982 graduates-inumber.meeting competency requirements, signing waiver letters; using special education exemiptions?
-
Evaluation Question D1-2: How did 1982, graduątes compare to those in 1981, 1980, and 1979?
8
4. Evaluation Question D1-3: How many 1982 graduates met competency at these leve, $\mathrm{s}: ~ 8.5,9.0,9.5$, and 9.9?.

Evaluation Question D1-4: What have graduates who signed waiver letters done since graduatión?


Evaluation Question D2-3: What changes in the measurement, reporting; and record keeping system.were made in 1981-82?

Evaluation Question $D 2-4$ : What other changes in the measurement, reporting; and record keeping system are needed?

Decision Question D3: Which tests should be used for measuring competency?

Evaluation Question D3-1: On which tests and at what times did the 1982 graduates meet the competency réqui rements?
Evaluation Question D3-2: What was the impact of the switch to the ITBS?

Evaluation Question D3-3: What options are available for future compete̊ncy tests?

Decision Question D4: Should special eduçation exemptions continue to be determined by ARD committees using the currently adopted criteria?

Evalutation Question D4-1: How many 1982 graduates. , who signed waiver letters were special education students?
,
Evaluation Question D4-2: How many special edućation students were exempted by their ARD committees from competency testing? Of these, how many receivied more than three hours per day of special education service?

In addition, the following information question was addressed. met are described in detail in the Policy and Procedures Manual: Minimum Competencies for High School Graduation, publication number. 80.48. .

The High School Competency File was the source for most of the analyses. conducted and reported here. Results are discussed in terms of each evaluation and information question.

Evaluation question 01-1. What was the status of the 1982 graduates-number meeting competency requirements, signing waiver letters, using special education exemptions?

1
Figure 1 sumarizes each school's 1982 graduates' competency status. Attachment 1 is the memo and forms sent to the high schools for reporing--
A. 1982 Graduates Who Used a Letter of Waiver
B. 1982 Graduates Who Used a Special Education Exemption
C. Total Number of 1982 Graduates

Evaluation Question 01-2. How did. 1982 gratuates compare to those in 1281, 1980, and 1979?

Figure 1 also contains each school's 1981 and 1980 graduates' competency status. Since the 1979 records were not kept in detail, only"the number of graduates signing letters of waiver can be compared across four years. Figure 2 makes this comparison.
year of graduation *

*After 1980, scudents no longer could use an exemption for being enrolled prior to 75-76 or for trańsferring into AISD as a graduating senior.

Figure 2. NUMBER OF GRADUATES USING A LETTER OF WAIVER, 1979-82.

 letter category for that yepar.

Evaluation Question D1-3. How many 1982 graduates met competency at these levels: 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, and 9.9?

Figure 3 provides estimates of 1982 graduates meeting comptency at each of these four criterion levels. The number who would be required to sign letters of waiver is also estimated for each level. (Actual numbers are i unknown because students required to meet a higher competency level would also be required to attend additional special sessions or take additional tutorial courses.)

The data used in Figure 3 are obtained from the SGR File: Because the SGR File does not include January graduates students at special campuses (e.g., Robbins, Kealing, and Clifton Center) and considers more retainees, plus other factors, the number of seniors in Figure 3 is less than the number of reported 1982 gráduates. At tachment 11 contains the raw scores used to meet competency at each criterion level.

| - A |  | READ | Ing |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 8.5 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 9.9 | 8.5 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 9.9 |
| 1981-82 senfors | - 3108 | 3108 | 3108 | 3108 | 3108 | 3108 | 3108 | 3108 |
| Number meeting competencs | 2830 | 2647 | 2395 | 2328 | 2870 | 2597 | 2325 | \$160 |
| Number not meeting fompeteacy | 278 | 461. | 713 | 780 | 238 | 511 | 7.83 | 948 |
| Number using special education exemption. | . 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 |
| Number =equiring letter of waiver | $153$ | 336 | 538 | 655 | 114 | 387 | 659 | 824 |

Figure 3. 1982 SENIRR' COMPETENCY STATUS FOR CRITERIA Ó 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, AND 9.9.
a
1

Evaluation Question 01-4. "What have graduates who signed waiver letters done since graduation?

In 1980, 31 AISD graduates signed letters of waiver in both reading and math. In 1982, phone numbers could be found for only ll of these. ORE personnel attempted to contact these 11 , as well as three others whose locations could only be guessed, for a total of 14 attempted contacts. Attachment 7 containis the survey form used. Eight of these 14 were reached. The information they prozided is shown in Figure 4. They said...

- Better reading and math skills have been needed since graduation:
- AISD should have minimum competency requirements.
- High school should have required more of them.
- Overall, high school prepared them adequately for their present activities.
- Three have been full-time students since graduation.
- Five have been working, looking for work, or living at home.
- After two years, their average salary is \$4:41 per hour.
- On the average, they have been employed about $50 \%$ of the time.


|  | Moaths Student |  | Yonths Employed |  |  | Moathly. Gross** |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Full | Part | Full | Part | Not | Stare | End |
| Case 1* | 0 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 0 | \$ 840 | \$ 990 |
| Case 2 | 0 | 0 | $22^{\circ}$ | 0 | 0 | \$ 625 | \$ 980 |
| Case 3 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 8 | \$ 340 | \$ 490 |
| Case 4 | 18 | 3 |  | 3 | 0 | \$ 750 | \$ 815 |
| Case 5 | 16 | 0 | 6 |  | 0 | \$ 550 | \$ 650 |
| Case 6' | 22 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | \$ 430 | \$ 450 |
| Case 7 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 14 | - | - |
| Case 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 19 | \$ 600 | \$ 600 |

*Interview cermianted. Progress report covered 13 months at time of cermination.
**Monch gross $=$ Reporced hourly wage x 173.3.
FIguTe 4. SUMMARY OF DATA OBTAINED FROM SURVEYS OF 1980 GRADUATES WHO SIGNED WAIVER LETTERS IN BOTH MATH AND READING.

Evaluation Question 01-5. How many students have not yet met competency requirements at each grade (8-12)?

Figure 5 is a summary by ethnic group of the competency status of all AISD high school students, who were enrolled during the spring semester of the 81-82, school year according to the SGR File. To be included, a student had to be on the High School Competency•File with at least one valid test score as of June, 1982. No-students with special education exemptions or letters of waiver are excluded from this sumary.

Figure 6 summarizes the same information for grade 8.
Evaluation Question D1-6. Have the campetency requirements had any effects on student achievement levels?
Figure 7 compares the percentage of students who scored in the lowest quartile and the lowest decile on the STEP across the past five years. These lowest achieving students should be the ones most directly affected by the graduation competency requirements. Unfortunately, changes in enrollments, retention rates, and testing rates all affect the percentage of low-achieving students. Consequently, the impact of the competency requirements may be masked by other factors.

| 4 |  |  | $1$ | . EIINICITY |  |  | IRIENIM | AMTR ICAN INUIAN |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ARFA | 51AIUS | InIal |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| READING | Mr $\quad$ I | $\begin{array}{r} 1761 \\ 1481 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1420 \\ 16581 \end{array}$ | $1214$ | 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 102 \\ 1521 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 18 \\ 14421 \end{array}$ | $11481^{2}$ |
|  | MHI MET | $\begin{array}{r} 2259 \\ 5851 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 772 \\ 1 \quad 351 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 911, \\ 19 \$ 1 \end{gathered}$ | 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 599 \\ 0581 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 23 \\ 1561 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1 ? \\ 11521 \end{array}$ |
| Math | पF7 | $\begin{array}{r} 1763 \\ 4481 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1335 \\ 16153 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 250 \\ 2511 \end{array}$ | 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 131 \\ 2081 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 29 \\ 16081 \end{array}$ | $1$ |
|  | MII I ME 7 | $\begin{aligned} & 2257 \\ & 5851 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 057 . \\ 1373 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 765 \\ 15 \% 1 \end{array}$ | 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 564 \\ 0081 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ 1328 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ 1078 \end{array}$ |
| МОTH | ME 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 1408 \\ 13581 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1155 \\ 15321 . \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 156 \\ 11581 \end{array}$ | 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 75 \\ 1181 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ 13981 \end{array}$ | $1 \quad 171$ |
|  | NEEDS | $\begin{aligned} & 1902 \\ & 14781 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 592 \\ 12721 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 708 \\ 18781 \end{array}$ | 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 537 \\ 1721 \end{array}$ | $12781$ | $108 \% 1$ |
| $\because$ | In7AL N | 4070 | 2172 | 1025 |  | 701 | 41 | 14 |

Figure 6. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF GRADE 8 STUDENTS MEETING CUMPEIIENCY, BY ETHNICITY.


Figure 5. NLMBER and percentage of students meeting competency, by grade AND ETHNIC.ITY. (Number of grade. 12 scudents indicated here is less than the number of 1982 graduate's.)

| . $\cdot$ | GRADE | $77-78$ | 78-79 | READING $79-80$ | 80-81 | 81-82 | 77-78 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { MATH } \\ 78-79 \end{array}$ | BASIC 79-80 | ONCEPTS 80-81 | 81-82 | 77-78 | $\begin{gathered} \text { нети } \\ .78-79 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { COMPUTA } \\ & 79-80 \cdot \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ATION } \\ & 80-81 \end{aligned}$ | 81-82 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 12 | 36 | 34 | 31 | 35 | 38 | 27 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 27 | 33 | 29* | $\stackrel{-}{29}$ | 30 | 32 |
| Students scoring at or below the | 11 | 35 | 34 | 33 | 37 | 35 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 23 | 29 | 27 | 24 | . 25 | 24 |
| 25th percentile | 10 | 35 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 36 | 29 | 28 | 28 | - 30 | 28 | 34 | 29 | 39 | 291 | 29 |
|  | 9. | 38 | 41 | 40 | 42 | 40 | 37 | 39 | 38 | 38 | 37 | 39 | $=40$ | . 38 | 36 | 38 |
|  | 12 |  | 17 | 15 | $15^{\circ}$ | 19 | - 1.2 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 18 | 13 | '12' | - 12 | - 13 |
| Students scoring at or below th | 11 | - 17 | 16 | 14 | . $17^{\circ}$ | 15 | 1.1 | 11 | 10 | 11. | 10 。 | 14 | 11 | -9 | - 9 | 9 |
| 10th percentile | 10 | 19 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 17 | 15 * | 15 | ' 14 | 15 | 14 | $14 *$ | 11 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
|  | $9{ }^{\circ}$ | , 17 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 21 | $\stackrel{1}{2}$ | 21 | 20 | 19 | . 19 | - 19 | 17 | 18 |

Figure 7. percentace of students scoring in the lowest quartile and deciile on the step, 1977-78 to 1981-82. (1970 norms).

Evaluation Question 01-7. Have the competency requirements had any effect on the school leaver rates?

Again, many other factors influence school leavers in addition to gradualion competency requirements. No real conclusions carr be drawn from the data presented in Figure 8.



Figure 8. total number of school leavers AND PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP who are leavers.

Evaluation question D2-1. Are the success rates for tutorial courses acceptable?

Figure 9 summarizes the percentage of students who met competency requirements at the end of a tutorial course during the last four years. Attachment 2 provides a more detailed summary by campus. . 'In comparing. 1981-82 success rates with those from previous years, several factors must be considered.

- The lack of security of the CAT, expecially the Form B Reading Test, was such that the success rate for reading: tutorial courses is probably overestimated prior to the fall of 1981.
- Beginning in 1981-82, tutorial courses began enrolling students with a 9.0 criterion to achieve. Other students, those scheduled to graduate by 1982, were working toward an 8.5. criterion.
- Beginning in 1981-82, the ITBS was used to test students for competency. The unfamiliarity of teachers and students with the ITBS, and the fact that the tutorial curriculum had been originally directed toward the CAT objectives, resulted in some frustration on the part of teachers and possibly students.
Inspection of the numbers reported previously in Figure 3, reveals that if the success rate of the tutorial courses remains the same, the number of students not meeting the higher 9.0 criterion in 1983 will probably be 3 times higher than the number who did not meet the 8.5 criterion in 1982.

**See Figure 10. These percentages would be 53.9\% for math and $21.2 \%$ for reading if the students who met compatency on the TABS or STEP in the spring and did not take the ITBS in their cutortal were inchuded and assumed to be in the "mer" category.

1

| Inme of Tescing | Tert. Form | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mach } \\ & \% \text { Mer } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Reading } \\ \% \mathrm{Mer} \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1978-79 fall | B | 50.9 | 39.6 |
| wincer | B | 64.2 | 48.3 |
| spring | B | 72.3 | 53.3 |
| 1979-80 fall | B | 88.8 | 57.9 |
| wincer | A | 47.9 | 20.6 |
| spring | B | 68.8 | - 924.0 |
| -1980-81 fall | $A_{r}$ | 58.8 | 28.5 |
| - spring | B | 65.7 | 44.7 |
| 1981*82 fall | 8 | 45.8 | 14.4 |
| **spring | 7 | 50.1* | 17.6 |

*Studencs who took a spring cutorial - even though they had mer comperancy in the fall are included here. See - page 25 for decails.

Figure 9. the percentage of tutorial STUDENTS MEETING COMPETENCY, - 1978-79 то 1981-82.
-The success rates for tutorial courses for each semester are important; however, not, all students can be realistically expected to make mp their skills deficit in one semester and will require more than one tutofial. course. Therefore, an estimate of the ultimate success rate for the tutorials is the percentage of students who have taken a tutorial (or several) who eventually have to sign a waiver letter. Figure 11 provides data related to this. This figure shows that $9 \%$ of the 1982 seniors took at least one tutorial course before meeting competency in math, and $\mathbf{9} \%$ in reading. At the end of their senior year $82 \%$ of these tutorial takers had met competency in math, and $7.1 \%$ in reading. (See Figure 12). Evaluation Question 02-2. What were the characteristics of the 1982 graduates who signed waiver letters?

Figure 11 sumarizes those characteristics which are available on computer files. Special education students who were exempted becausé they could not be tested validlyare also described.


Figure 11. CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS SIGNING LETTERS OF WAIVER OR USING SPECIAL EDUCATION EXEMPTIONS, 1981-82 SENIORS: (These data do not include graduates from special schools.)
.


Figure 12. PERCENTAGE OF 1982 SENIORS WHO MET COMPETENCY AFTER TAKING at Least one tutorial course.


- Evaluation questiln 02-3. What changes in the measurement, reporting, and record-keeping system were made in 1981-82?

1. "The California Achievement Tests (CAT) was replaced. by the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)' for $\cdot$ all. special and tutorial testing. The official decision to change was made during the summer of 1981, and many administrators and teacherrs were caught by surprise when the ITBS was administered in the fall.
2. The Competency File was programed to be accessible on the CRT's at each high school campus. This provided the capability to each counselor and registrar to view the current competency testing and status record jof each student and to send a message to ORE reporting any discrepancies. See Attachment 4 'for documentation.
3. The revised policy and procedures for Including special education students in standardized testing were implemented. Each student's Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee now determines whether the student can be validly tested. Those who cannot-be are exempted. Details of the procedures and reporting forms are included in the Systemwide Technical Report.
4. Differentiated Report A was revised to show which students are currently enrolled in a tutorial course and which students have.been exempted from competency testing by their ARD Committees. This was a response to a request from counselors to have a list from which they could determine which students should bé tested in special sessions.
.5. Some limited-English-proficient (LEP) students no longer are required to take a tutorial course. The Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) may determine that a LEP student should not take a tutorial course if that student's English language proficiency is below the level required to benefit from the tutorial. A LEP stu-*. dent may submit a letter of waiver without having taken a tutorial if the LPAC recommends courses other than a tutorial. See Attachment 5.
5. TABS scores from other school districts now may be used to meet the competency requirements. The transfer student's official record must contain the total raw score to be valid. See Attachment 6.

Evaluation question 02-4. What other changes in the measurement, reporting, and record-keeping system are needed?

1. The dates for special sessions have bèen too late for schools to schedule students based on the competency test results. Attachment 7 contains the communications made concerning this issue. The resolution was to allow schools to request special session dates as' early as they need them.
2. A decision is needed from the assistant superintendent for secondary education concerning the appropriateness of seniors who take an early tutorial test and do not pass taking another test at the regular time "to have one, last chance to -meet competency:" ORE denfed such requests in the spring of 1982; however, some of. the
$1^{\text {. }}$ seniors who attended a second tutorial session without
a prior request were tested and others were turned
away by the testers:
3. A request has been made by some counselors to have the Differentiated Report A show the number of courses completed in an area. This. yill allow them to deter-
4. mine which studefts have completed/passed the courses required prior to taking a tutorial. This will be done pending availability of the programmer's time.
5. The Competency File accessible on each high school's CRT's is not being used to find students' current status and to send discrepancy messạges. In a meeting of the High School Data Control Committee on May 6, 1982;

- the problem was discussed, and the ofollowing recommendations wẹre made.
- Recommunicate the guailability of the file
in the fall of 1982 .
- Call the counselors and registrators together for a meetifig to learn the procedures.

5. The instructional coordinator for math communicated to ORE the dissatisfaction of some teachers with ORE testers' attitude during testing. The teachers were reported to

- have said the testers were not friendly, were too businesslike, and did not tell' the students that they will do well on the test if they try. ORE's response was that testers should be friendly, business-like, but not comment on students' chances tomeet competency. The larger issue behind this is whether teaphers should test their own students. Currently they do not for test-security reasons. However, if the Dísurt develops multiple forms of a competency test and negates the advantage of teachers' knowing items, then teachers might test their own students.

6. Providing preslugged answer sheets for competency testing saves school§ and ORE much time. However, the current plan, printing an answer sheet in the fall for any student who has not met competency and then reprinting an answer sheet in the spring fust for those who were tested in the-fall and did not pass, results in too many wasted sheet and too many hand-completed sheets. ORE staff needs to design a way to produce preslugged answer sheets for special and tutorial sessions to reduce the waste and hand coding.

More forms ofthe competency tests ${ }^{8}$ and a closer match between tests and currículum are needed. See question D3-3 for options.

Evaluation Question 03-1. On which tests and at what times did the 1982 graduates meet the campetency requirements?

Figure 13 shows how the $1981 \rightarrow 82$ seniors first met competency. If a student met competency in the same term more than once, the priority for placement in Figure 13 is as follows: TABS, special session, STEP, tutorial testing. Then the numbers of students for fall and spring in the same category were combined into a number meeting competency during that grade.

| Condicion of First Meeting Compecency: Requirements | READING ${ }^{\text {1981-82 SENIORS }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | \% | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cumulative } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | \# | \% | Cumulative $\%$ |
|  | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |
| CAT, Grade 8. | 1383 | 44.5 | 44.5 | 1385 | 44.6 | 44.6 |
| S.S., Grade 9 | 2 | 0.1 | 44.6 | 0 | -0:0 | 44.6 |
| STEP, Grade 9 | 436 | 14.0 | 58.6 | 250 | 8.0 | 52.6 |
| T.S., Grade 9 | 0 | 0.0 | 58.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 52.6 |
| S.S., Grade 10 | 138 | 4.4 | 63.0 | 295 | 9.5 | 62.1 |
| STEP, Grade 10 | 259 | 8.3 | 71.4 | 199 | 6.4 | 68.5 |
| T.S., Grade 10 | 4* | 0.1 | 71.5 | 11 | 0.4 | - 68.9 |
| S.S.: Grade 11 | 180 | 5.8 | 77.3 | 274 | 8.8 | 77.7 |
| STEP, Grade 11 | 89 | 2.9 | 80.1 | 71 | 2.3 | 80.0 |
| T.S., Grade 11 | 130 | 4.2 | 84.3 | 142 | 1 4.6 | 84.5 |
| S.S., Grade 12 | 123 | 4.0 | 88.3 | 145 | 4.7 | . 89.2 |
| STEP, Grade 12 | 53 | 1.7 | 90.0 | ( $25^{\circ}$ | 0.8 | 90.0 |
| T.S., Grade 12 | 18 | 0.6 | 90.6 | ¢ 61 | 2.0 | 92.0 |
| SOME OTEER TEST* | 6 | 0.2 | 90.8 , | 14 | 0.5 | 92.4 |
| NOT MET COMPETENG | 287 | $7^{9.2}$ | 100.0 | 236 | 7.6 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL \# OF SENIORS | 3108 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 3108 | 100.0 | 100.0. |

S.S. - SPECIAL SESSION T.S. = TUTORIAL SESSION
*Ocher cesc probabiy TABS; cime of cescing not indicated
Figure 13. HPW 1981-82 SENIORS FIEST MET MINIMUM COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS.

Evaluation question D3-2. What was the impact of the switch to 榎e ITBS? Figure $\dot{9}$ and Attachment 2 provide the percentage-of students who have met competency during each tatorial: and special session since fall, 1978. Figure 14 display levels. In the absence of any other explanation, the drop in success rates for the tuterial courses appears to have been a result moze of the change in testes (CAT tó ITBS) than in the"change. in criteria (8.5 to 9.0). This decrease would have been expected for reading tutorials since the security of the CAT vocabulary items had not been maintained. A decrease for math tutorials may reflect a rèduction in the match between the test used and the tutorial curriculum.


2

- Figure 14.: TUTORIAL PASSING RATES FOR REIDING AND MATH COMBINED, 8.5 AND 9.0.
'Evaluation Question 03-3. What options are available for future comper tency tests?

1. The program could be continued as it exists.
2. The TABS alone could be the competency measure.
3. The annual standardized tests (ITBS, STEP) could be the only competency measures, given only once a year.
4. An itembank could be assembled to allow the generation of multiple, parallel forms of a competency test.

Recent court cases have defined what constitutes a defensible minimum competency requirement.

- Valid objectives which describe those skills which are truly basic competencies.
- A valid measure of these objectives.
- Assurance that the skills are actually taught.
- Early assessment and identification of those needing remediation.
- Remedial or tutorial assistance for those needing it.
- Multiple opportunities to pass the competency test.

Figure 15 compares the four progams/options shown above on the six characteristics of a legally defensible competency. program.


Figure 15. comparisons of strengths and heaknesses of competency programs on six characteristics of A legally defensible program.

Evaluation Question D4-1. How many 1982 graduates who signed waiver letters were special education students?

Figure 16 shows how many special education students signed waiver letters because they were not exempt and did not meet competency in reading and/ or math.
NUMBER OF SPECIAL
EDUCATION STUDENTS

Evaluation Question 04-2. How many special education students were exempted by their ARD committees from competency testing? Of these, how many received more than three hours per day of special education service?

Figure 17 shows the number of graduates who used at least one special education exemption and received more than three hours per day of special education service.

| Number of hours per day of special education service | Number of graduates using at least one exemption |
| :---: | :---: |
| 3 or less | 25 |
| More than 3 | 109 |
| Total | 134 |
| Figure 17. HOURS | of spectai educa pecial education at least one exem |

Information Question 11. What will be the 1982 TABS minimum competency levels?

Attachment 8 contains the frequency distributions for the scores of stum. dents who took both the TABS and the STEP in 1982. For the third year in succession, a TABS raw score of 37 was equated with the 9.0 graduation competency requirement on the STEP.

## ADDITIONAL DATA AND DOCUMENTATION

Eighth Graders Not Meeting Competency Requirements, 1978 Through 1982
Figure 18 shows the number and percentage of eiglith graders who did not meet the 8.5 and the 9.0 competency criteria from 1978 through 1982. For the last two years, the percentage of students who have met competency on their first opportunity has increased.

| YEAR | TEST | READING |  |  | MATH |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | \% TESTED | BELOW 8.5 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { BELON } 9.0 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | \# TESTED | BELOW 8.5 | BELOW | 9.0 |
| 1978 | CAT | 4648 | 238851.4 | 2622 56.4 | 4565 | 238252.2 | 2756 | 60.4 |
| 1979 | CAT | 4594 | 2402 52.3 | 264058.1 | 4594 | $2300 \quad 50.1$ | 2699 | 58.1 |
| 1980 | ITBS | 4035 | 219154.3 | $2400 \quad 59.5$ | 4035 | 205050.8 | 2346 | 58.1 |
| 1981 | ITBS | 3810 | 1847-48.5 | $2062 \quad 54.1$ | 3821 | 175245.9 | 2034 | 53.2 |
| 1982 | ITBS | 3638 | 166745.8 | 187851.6 | 3627 | 157643.5 | 1866 | 51.4 |

Figure 18. number and percentage of eichth graders tested wio did not meet 8.5 AND 9.0 COMPETENCY LEVELS IN 1978-1982.

Communications Relating to Minimum Competency Activities
Attachment 7 contains the communications sent during the $1981-82^{\circ}$ school year relating to the minimum competency requirements.

DOCUMENTATION OF A PROBLEM: INCORRECT MATH COMPETENCY CRITERION FOR ITBS FORM 8

The ITBS Form 8 was administered as the competency test in the fall of 1981. The raw score criteria set for each competency level in reading and math were incorrectly askumed/determined to be the same as for Form 7. Figure 19 shows the raw score which most closely matches the 8.5 and 9.0 criteria. (Note that the 8.5 criterion is actually an 8.6 criterion since the sixth month of eighth grade was originally used as the criterion date for "average performance in the middle of grade 8.")

| Test | Form | Rew Score Criterion for 8.5 9.1 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reading | 7 |  | 57 | 61 |
|  | 8 |  | 57 | 62 |
| Math | 7 8 |  | $\begin{aligned} & 61 \\ & 51 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 67 \\ & 58 \end{aligned}$ |

Figure 19. RAW SCORE CRITERIA WHICE BEST FIT 8.5 AND 9.0 STANDARDS

Obviously the use of Form 7 criteria in math for Form 8 tests resulted in fewer students meeting competency standards in math than was appropriate. The test results for all students from the fall of 1981 when Form 8 was used were recalculated to determine correctly competency status in math. Reaḍing competency was not recalculated since the apparent discrepancy was only one raw score point and was in the favor of the students. Figure 20 summarizes the impact of the change in the math criterion.

```
| of students who met math
ompetency but were not
originally credired....................1i7
# of students who met mach
competency on a subsequent
test.................................. }7
# of studencs who did not
meet math competency on a
subsequent test........................ }10
# of graduates who had signed
a letter of waiver but who
should have been credited
with math competency................... 14
```

Figure 20. IMPACT OF THE CHANGE IN MATH CRiterion for itbs form 8.

Attachment 7 includes the communications sent regarding these changes-including a letter to graduates who had signed an unnecessary waiver letter.

FORMS SENT TO HIGH SCHOOLS FOR REPORTING 1982 GRADUATES' COMPETENCY STATUS

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3 i
$$

$f$ AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCEOOL DISTRICT

May 24, 1982

TO: High School Principals
FROM:
SUBJECT: 1982 Graduates with Spectal Education Exemptions or Latters of Waiver
please complete and return the attached forms as soon as your records for 1982 graduates are complete. Rick Battaile is available in our officé to answer any questions you have (458-1227).

The three forms are:
A. Graduates Who Used a Lefter of Waiver
B. Graduates Who Used a Special Education Exemption
C. Total Number of 1982 Graduates

G:If
Enclosure
cc: Registrars
Building Test Coordinator for Min. Comp.
Maud Sims
J. M. Richard


Approvied:
$\frac{V}{\text { Acting Assistant Superintendent Eor Secondary }}$

# absitn mpermpert school distict 

 Office of Research and Evaluaction

2982 GRADOATES hEO USED A LETIER OF MALVER
scroot:
FERSOM. COMPLETEMG TRIS FORM: $\qquad$
 the compatency requiremeats in the area(s) checked.


Please :etum this List 50 : R1ck Bacsalle, Office of Research and Evaluation, Dox i9

UUSTIN INDEPRDENT SCHOOR DISTRICT office of Research and Evaluagion

1932 graduates mio used a specinl ficicarion exiyition
scroot: $\qquad$
prison completing this fonc:

 competancy cesting. Flease add to or revise chis liacing based on hafortiation ar your campus.


Yore: If any studencs have eac comperancy ont the STEP, ITBS, TABS, or CAT, eheir competniny score will replace etreir exempiou on our records. Ples Hise eo: Rick Saceaile, office of kasafrch and Eyaluations box i9.
$\because$
0
0

SCHODL: $\qquad$

PERSON COMPLETING THIS FORM; $\qquad$
The noral number of January and May, 1982 graduares for this school year is $\qquad$ .

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



| TIME OF TESTIVG | F$\mathbf{O}$$\mathbf{R}$$\mathbf{M}$ | SENIOR TRANSFERS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | MATH |  |  |  | READING |  |  |  |
|  |  | MET | ṄOT \#ET | TOTAL | 8 MET | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | \% MET |
| $\begin{array}{r} \text { 1980-81 fall } \\ \text { spring } \end{array}$ | A 3 | - 27 | 11 | 38 | 71.1 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 66.7 |
| 1981-82 fall | 8 | 117 | 32 | 149 | 78.5 | 113 | 34 | 147 | 76.9 |
| spíng | 7 | 21 | 9 | $30^{\circ}$ | 70.0 | 21 | 14 | 35 | $60.0{ }^{\text { }}$ |

$81.76 \quad \because \quad$


| TIME OF TESTING | TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MATH |  |  |  | REDDING |  |  |  |
|  | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | \% MET | MEI | NOT MET | tOTAL | \% MET |
| 1978-79 fall | 130 | 20 | 50 | 60 | 36 | 23 | 59 | 61 |
| winter | - 26 | 17 | 43 | 60 | 42 | 6 | 48 | 88 |
| spring | 12 | 5 | 17 | 71 | 23 | 43 | 66 | 35 |
| 1979-80 fall | ( 131 | 69 | 200 | 66. | 106 | 50 | 156 | $68{ }^{\circ}$ |
| winter | 110 | 102 | 212 | 52 | - 81 | 124 | 205 | 40 |
| spring | 12 | 5 | 17 | - 71 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 53 |
| 1980-81 fall | 84 | 177 | 261 | - 32 | - 77 | 19.1 | 268 | 29 |
| spring | 43 | 84 | 127 | 34 | 59 | 90 | 149 | 40 |
| 1981-82 ¢all | 46. | 72 | 118 | 39 | 27 | 89 | 116 | 23 |
| spring | 43 | 89 | 132 | 33 | 20 | 103 | 123 | 16. |


| time of TESTING | 5 | SPECTAL SESSION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{\mathrm{R}}{\mathrm{M}}$ | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | * MET ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | MET | NOT MET | total | $\%$ MET |
| 1978-79 fall | B | 23 | 16 | 39 | 59': | 29 | 13 | 42 | 69 |
| winter | 3 | 22 | - 13 | 35 | 63 | 12 | 4 | 16 | - 75" |
| spring | B | 1 | 0 | - 1 | 100 | 19 | 42 | 61 | 31 |
| 1979-80 fall | B | 85 | 58 | - 143 | 59 | 80 | - 45 | 125 | 64 |
| vinter | a | 93 | 85 | 178 | 52 | 81 | 113 | 194 | 42 |
| 30780 | B | -7 | -- | - | - | $-2$ | 1 | 3 | 67 |
| 2980-81 11 | A | 77 | 168 | 245 | 31 | 61 | 125 | 186 | 33 |
| spring. | B | 28 | 75 | 103 | 27 | 16 | 75 | 91 | 18 |
| 1981-82 fall | 8 | 29 | 54 | 83 | 35 | 20 | 42 | 62 | 33 |
| spring | 7 | 26 | 62 ¢ | 88 | 30 | 16 | 49 | 65 | - 25 |


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CROCKETT HIGH




LDJ HIGA


JORNSTON RIGY







LANIER HIGH


| TIME OFTESTING | SPECIAL SESSION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MATH |  |  |  | READING |  |  |  |
|  | MET | NOT MET | total | \% MEI | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | \% MET |
| -1978-76 fall 3 | 13 | 6 | 19 | 68 | 13 | 2 |  |  |
| $\because$ whater 3 | 19 | 16 | 35 | 54 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 87 57 |
| spring ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | 1. | 1 | 2 | 50 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 75 |
| 1979-80 fall 3 | 81 | 51 | 132 | 61 | 28 | - 25 | 53 | 53 |
| wincer $A$ | - | - | - | - | - | 67 | - | -- |
| spring 3 | $\therefore$ | 3 | 5 | 40 | 35 | 67 | 102 | 34 |
| 1980-81 fall $A$ | j0 | 29 | 79 | 63 | 44 | 24 | 68 | 65 |
| spring B | 29 | 33 | 62. | 47 | 21 | 39 | 60 | 35 |
| 1981-82 fall 8 | 39 | 65 | 104 | 38 | - 32 | 47 | 79 | 41 |
| spring 7 | 28 | 112 | 140 | 20 | 26 | 79 | 105 | 25 |


| TIME OF TESTING | F | TUTORTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | MATH |  |  |  | RESDING |  |  |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{R} \\ & \mathbf{M} \end{aligned}$ | MEI | NOT MET | TOTAE | \% MET | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | \% MET |
| 1978-79 fall | B | 17 | 18 | 35 | 49 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 40 |
| winter | B | 13 | 20 | 33 | 39 | 3. | 10 | 13 | 23 |
| $3 \mathrm{3pring}$ | ${ }^{8}$ | 18 | 4 | 22 | 82 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 20 |
| 1979-80 fall | B | 26 | 19 | 45 | 58 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 36 |
| winter | A | 15 | 25 | 40 | 38 | 5 | 16 | 21 | 24 |
| spring | B | 11 | 7 | 18 | 61 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 40 |
| 1980-81 Eall | A | 22 | 19 | 41 | 54 | 10 | 45 | 55 | 18 |
| ${ }^{\text {spring }}$ | ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | 11 | 8 | 19 | 58 | 15 | 44 | 59 | 25 |
| 1981-82 fall | 8 | 8 | 22 | 30 | 27 | 10 | 37 | 47 | 21 |
| spring | 7 | 21 | 22 | 43 | 49 | 4 | 53 | 57 | 7 |

MCCALLUM HIGH
6) MCCALLU AIGH


| TIME OF TESTIVG | 'F | SPECLAL SESSION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0 | MATP |  |  |  | READING |  |  |  |
|  | R | SEI | NOT MET | TOTAL | z MET | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | \% MEI |
| 1978-79 fall | B | 32 | 27 | 59 | 54 | 37 | 41 | 78 | 4* |
| whater | B | 81 | 80 | 161 | 50 | 28 | 35 | 63 | 44 |
| sprizg | B | - | -- | -- | -- | 31 | 58 | 89 | 35 |
| 1979-80 fall | B | 63 | 44 | 107 | 59 | 41 | 46 | 87 | 47 |
| whater | A | 78 | 91 | 169 | 46 | 52 | 92 | 144 | 36 |
| spring | B | 29 | 49 | 78 | 37 | 23 | 63 | 86 | 27 |
| 1980-81 fall | A | 48 | 42 | 90 | 53 | 39 | 49 | 88 | 44 |
| spring | B | 35 | 53 | 88 | 40 | 16. | 68 | 84 | 19 |
| 1981-82 Eall | 8 | 37 | 31 | 68 | 54 | 30 | 30 | 64 | , 47 |
| spring | 7 | 22 | 46 | 68 | 32 | 13 | 48 , | 61 | 21 |


| TIME OF TESTING | $\stackrel{\&}{\text { TUTORIAL }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MATH |  |  |  | READING |  |  |  |
|  | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | \% MET | MET | NOT MET | total | \% MET |
| 1978-79 Eall B | 3 | 7 | 10 | 30 | 11 | 14 | 25. | 44 |
| wintar ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | 5 | 3 | 8 | 63 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 38 |
| spring 3 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 54 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 46 |
| 1979-80 Eall B | 11 | 12 | 23 | 48 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 20 |
| winter A | ${ }^{2}$ | 6 | 8 | 25 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| spring B | 12 | 9 | 21 | 57 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 23 |
| 1980-81 fall a | 4 | 10 | 14 | 29 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 20 |
| - spring B | 8 | 8 | 16 | 50 | 10 | 21 | 31 | 32 |
| 1981-82 Eall 8 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 33 | 9 | 31 | 40 | 23 |
| spring 7 | 15 | 14 | 29 | 52 | 9 | 30 | 39 | 23 |

reagan high


| TIME OF TESTING | F | SPECIAL SESSION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Math |  |  |  | READING |  |  |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{R} \\ \mathrm{M} \end{gathered}$ | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | \% \% MET | MET | NOT MET | fotal | \% MET |
| 1978-79 fall | B | 3 | 5 | $8{ }^{\text {- }}$ | 38 | 32 | 70 | 102 | 31 |
| winter | B | 42. | 31 | 73 | 58 | 31 | 50 | 81 | 38 |
| spring | B | 15 | 18 | 33 | 45 | 12 | 17. | 29 | 41 |
| 1979-80 fall | B | 49 | 28 | 77 | 64 | 32 | 47 | 79 | 41 |
| winter | A | 29 | 59 | 88 | 33 | 28 | 66 | . 94 | 30 |
| spring | B | 39 | 47 | 86 | 45 | 21 | . 73 | 94 | 22 |
| 1980-81 fall | A | 47 | 32 | 79 | 60 | 42 | 55 | 97 | 43 |
| spriag | B | 25 | 59 | 84 | 30 | 9 | 476 | 85 | 11 |
| 1981-82 fall | 8 | 29 | 69 | 98 | 30 | 24. | 80 | 104 | 23 |
| spring | 7 | 33 | 72 | 105 | 31 | 16 | 83. | 99 | 16 |


| TIME OF <br> TESTING | TJTORIAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MATH |  |  |  | READING |  |  |  |
|  | MEI | IOT MET | total | \% MET | MET | NOT MET | TOTAL | \% MET |
| 1978-79 fall | 8 | 8 | 16 | 50 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 33 |
| winter | 11 | 3 | 14 | 79 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 39 |
| spring | 6 | 2 | 8 | 75 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 50 |
| 1979-80 Exall | 10 | 1 | 11 | 91 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 50 |
| winter | 11 | 6 | 17 | 65 | $1:$ | 9 | 10 | 10 |
| spring | 13 | 1 | 14 | 93 | 11 | 11 | 22 | 50 |
| 1980-81 fall | 18 | 10 | 28 | 64 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 50 |
| spring | 12 | 3 | 15 | 80 | 16 | 31 | 47 | 34 |
| 1981-82 fall | 14 | 13 | 27 | 52 | 0 | 23 | 23 | 0 |
| spring | 8 | 11 | 19 | 42 | 4 | 20 | 24 | 17 |


$J$



TRAVIS HIGH





AISIIN INDEPMMDENT SCACOL DISTRICT Office of Resench and Evaluation
${ }^{\circ} 1981-82$


FORMLR STUDENT INTERVIEN

Directions to the trterviexter

1. At least three attempts will be made to gratact each former student, the ladtial call and two callbacks.
2. Place the call. Ask to speak' to the former student. If the student is not there, inquire when or how the student could be reached. Then follow up later.
3. Note the disposition of each call by using the following abbreviations.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { MA }=\text { No Answer } \\
& \text { 3Z }=\text { Busy } \\
& \text { NR = No Respondent (The respondeat is not home or is not at } \\
& \text { the number called.) } \\
& R=\text { Refused Interview } \\
& \text { I - Temainated Interview (The.respondent began the interview } \\
& \text { but quit before it was completed.) } \\
& \text { - } C=\text { Completed Interview }
\end{aligned}
$$

4. There will be no callbacks if the interview was reiused (R), terminated (T), or complated (C).
5. Log the area code for all long distance calls. Also, inil out a long distance call silp for each long distance call made.
6. Ruad or paraphrase the introduction.
7. Read the items and mark down the student's responses on the response sheet. Reread items if requested. Follow the skip patiern. REND ALOUD ENERITBING SEIGE IS NOT ITALICIZED.
8. Read or parapizase the conclusion.

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Office of Research and Evalustion

1981-82

TORMIRR STUDENT LNTERVIEN

Hello. My nama is - I mork
for the Austin Independent School Dtstrict and we're calling former AISD studants to find out what they have been doing since graduation. Your namie was one of those selected at Fandom from our list of 1980 graduates. The information you give us will be used to feprove AISD's educational program. Will you help us? Thank you.

First, I am going to read some questions. Iou can 亻answer each question with one of thase Etve words: "Always," "OFten," "Sometime," "Rarely," or "Naver." Please choose the word which best describes your answer.

Yarok the anuclent?s:responses to thia saction on tifa Respanse Street, not EeZas.

Since you graduated...

1. How dften have you ndeded to read better? (Read attermatities)
Alway Often Sometimes Narely Never
2. How often have you needed to do atchematics better? (Read altermativas)

Always Oiten Sometimes Rarely Never
Nert, I am going to read some statements. Plasse tellye whether you agree, disazree, of partly agree and partly disagree with each statement. $\quad \infty$
3. Yora should hava been required of me in high school.

4. Coverall, hagh school adequacely prepared ee for fy present . activities.

If "AGnEE," sce: "Tould you say yous strongly agree or jus agree?" If "DISAGREE," scet: "Would you say you strougly disagree or just disagree?

| St=ongly <br> Agree | Agrae | Parely igrae, Pareiy Disagree | Disagree | Scrocgly <br> Disagres |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

a
5. High school should have minimum competency requirements.

If "AGREE'," say: "Would you say you strongly agree or just agree?" If "DISACREE," sci: "Would you say you strongly disagree or just disagree?"

Strongly Partly Agree, Agree wrongly
Agree Agree Partly Disagree Disagree Disagree
Bork ting student's responses to this section on the Monthly Statue Record.

Say: Next, I am going to ask you what fou have been doing since graduation. In the first month after, you : graduated-June 1980-were you employed, a student, or other than employed or a student?

> If "EMR" YED," skip to A.
> If "STY DENT," skip to $B_{0}$
> If "OQ ${ }^{\prime \prime} E E R, "$ skip to $C_{0}$
A. $I_{0}$ the stwaient was "Emprorsin ard does not specific, say: "Were you em-
cloyed din the military?"

If $170, "$ skip to A.1.
If "res, "skip to A. 2.

1. Then say: "Were you employed on a part- or a full-etme basis?"
2. Then say: "Would you please tell me your estimate of your monthly gross income? Then's before taxes and deductions."
3. If tire student refuses, scup: "okay. Let!'s go on." Skip to $n$. $\theta$
4. Ifs the student is unsure, say: "Would you say it was (read alternatives)?"
(1) under $\$ 100$
(2) $\$ 100-\$ 300$
(3) $\$ 300-\$ 500$
(4) $\$ 500-\$ 700$
(5) $\$ 700-\$ 900$
(6) Above $\$ 900$ per month
5. If the student can pick a salmury category, said:
"Can you estimate more closely?"

SKごv to D.
B. If tie stucient ias $a$ "SmyDEWT," scut "was that on a. part- or on a Eull-time basis?"

Skip to D.
"C. If the studant was "OTHER," say:
"rifll you give me ai short description of what way happeniag duting that month, (name mometh)?

1. If the student cannot voluntecr anything; say: "For example, some people who are not employed or golng to school might describe their activities as 'living at home' or 'looking for wotk.'"
2. If the student stili coes not respond, scy: "Okay. Let's go on." Continue with D.
D. The next month, (read month), did your status change or remain the same?" 1. If "CBABGE;" say: "Wera you employed, a student, or other than

- Skip to A, $B$, or $C$ and continuce.

2. "If "ravill Twe sile," check the bow in the upper, pight-nonc cormer and contitus with $E$.
E. And in the Eollowing mozth, (read mbith), did your status change or remialn the same?
3. If "CEAVCE," say: there you employed, asstudene, or other than employed or a student?"
4. If "SAME," contirue vith Z.
F. And the followfing zonch, (read month)?

Skip to A, 3 , or $C$ and contirue.
5. If "SAME," say: "Eow long did that concinue?"
6. If thè student is unsure, say: "gray. Let's just take if a month * Skip to $D$.
7. If the stident cornot ciaciage between two montins, say: "Was' it (name
month) or was it (name orher month)?" month) or was it (aame ocher month)?" $\quad$,
8. Wher the studert gives an aman month ara year, scy: "In (ame month and year student indicated), wère you employed, a student, or other
than employed or a student?".
Sxiz to $A, B$, or $C$.
G. Continue tinouen ail 22 genths.

CONCIUSION: Thanis you, (name of student), for taking rhe time and effort to help us. We really apprectate tt. Thanks again. Goodbye.


## Masponater to Iezus 1-3:

| b. diraya | 0tem | Sometran : | Biardy | Stavar |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2. -diuay | 08 cm | Scmatimat | Rerely | Seiver |  |
| 3. Serangly 40xe | derea | Yareifingrae. Parel7 Disagrea | Disagree | 5 troas 17 <br> Dfsagree |  |
| 4. Semanisit | difrea | tarely Agza, Parely Diangea | Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Strongly } \\ & \text { Disagrya } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 3. Steongly | Agras | Farely dryen, Razely Disagrac | DEsagre | Seronsiy <br> Disagen |  |


ollice al Rosourch oind Evaluallor
1981-02



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best copy availille

ATTACHMENT 4
DIRECTIONS FOR USING THE CRT TO ACCESS MINIMUM COMPETENCY FILE

If the scrnan on your CRT is not complecely blank, press the CLEAR key. Type
"COMP" at the top left comer of the screen. ENTER (as used herein, ENTER means press the "ENTER" key).

WOTE: Student noriars and other data on the sinimum Competancy rile are od tained from the Student Grade Reporting (SGR) file. It is possible that somb test records fon newer students may be listed urder tempormy numbers rather then permanent numbers, or vice versa.
"HIGH SCHOOL MINHMM COMPETENCY DATA COMMONICATION SYSTEY" and other information will appear, with the cursor locaced in the "SCHOOL" (code). Eield.
"INQUIRY" for accessing the Minimum Comperency. File are available to you: basically the same. If you wish to vies ther you to use, although both are is unknown, you must use "INQUIRY." Alew the record of a student whose school follows: A description of how to use each mode

## INQUIRX

1. Since you are accessing a record filed under a unique studenc number, leave the "SCAOOL" as "000" (merely press the "Tab Right" ( -1 ) key to go tmmediately to the "STUDENT NUBER" fleld). If you do rype in a school code, the computer will search for the student's record at that school onlv.
2. Type in the student's number.
3. Type "X" in the "IMQUIRY" position, then ENTER.

The test record for that student number will appear. (If the message "RECORD NOT FOUND ON FILE" appears at the bottom of the screea, verify that you typed in the correct studeat number. (Some students may be listed under cemporary numbers.) If the student aumber is correct and you cyped in a school code ocher than "000," type "000" in the "SCHOOL" Eield, then ENTER.)

## BROWSE

1. Type the student's current school code in the "Sciool" field. In "BROWSE" you are accessing a record filed under a unique student number wichin a school. Since school "000" does not exisc, you musc enter a (valid) sciool code.
2. Type in the student's aumber.
3. Type " x " in the "BROWSE" posiction, tian ENTER.

The student's record, or the record for the student having the next highest scudent number within that school, will appear. (If the desired record did not appear, verlfy that you used the correct student number. Also, the student might inadvercentiy be listed in the wrong school. To determine that, search using "IBqUIRY.")
Revised SOVEMBER, 1981

When you are finished viewing a record and wish to view an addicional record, chere are two capabilicies available co you.
a. To browse forward, to the record for the student having ghe next highest student number within the same school, merely prass ENTER.
b. To look at the record of a particular studenc, use the. "FWD" function. Notice that "FWD" (forward) appears in the botcom left corner of the screen, with the cursor under the lecter "F." Press the "Tab Right" ( +1 ) key, then rype in the student number of the studeat whose record you whis to see. If chat student is in the same school as the studeat whose record is currently on the screen, merely press ENTER. If the students are not in the same school, cype che school code for the 'scudeat whose record you wish to see in che field following the scudenc aumber.' (The line should look like chis example: FWD 3939219 002. The two blanks shown are imperative.), Press

- ENTER.

The record for the desired student or, if the student number is not found at that school, the record for the student inaving the nert highest studate number within that schoof will appear.

## TEST RECORD

The test record for a student has two areas. The sumary heading provides the student ame, school, grade, and comperency informacion. Below this is a liscing of cest entries for that studeat, indicating each test taken on which competency could have been achieved and the scores on that cest admiaistration.

An example and interpresacion of each area is on page 4.

## DISCREPANCIES

Repore any discrepancies between the Minimum Competency File data and your school's records to, ORE by either of the following methods:
a. Mail information describing the discrepancy and what the (corrected data should be to Tom Roudebush at ORE, Box i9,
Carruch Administration Building. Use the "REPORT A Discrepancy Form" or write the informacion on a sheet of paper.
b. Use the "Message (MSG)" function available on the CRT. A description of how to use this function, available in boch the "IFQUIRY" and "BRONSE" modes, follows:

1. The "message" function is used to indicate a discrepancy in the test record that is curreacly on the screen, so call up the test record containing the discrepancy using the procedures described earlier.
2. Notice that "EWD" appears at the botcom left comer of the screen, with the cursor under the first letter: Replace the letters
(Continued, page 3 of 4)
"FWD" with "MSG" ("message"), then press the "Tab Righe" key ( $[-1]$ ) three times.
3. The cursor should now be under the first letter of the phrase "TO CONTINUE BRONSEPRESS ENTER" (if using "BROWSE") or the phrase "STUDENT FOUND-NON IN BRONSE MODE" (if using "INQUIRY"). This is the first position of the 50 -character "tressage fleid." Begin typing your messaga here, then press ENTER when you have finished the messaga. The phrase "MESSAGE GAS BEEN SENT" will appear.

If the length of your message exceeds 50 characters, type in part of the message, press ENTER, then repeat Steps 2 and 3 above, ryping in the remaining portion of the message.
VOTE: ORE will comsct Minimun Comperency File iiscreponcies perioaicallij. If a discripancy you reported has not been corrected within two weeks, piease cali Noncy Lonier or Ricik Jattaile at $458-1227$ to check on the status of this diacrepancy.

## AN EXAMPLIE OF A SUPYIABY IIEADIMG





INFORMATION SENT TO SCHOOLS ABOUT EXEMPTING LE STUDENTS ) FROM TAKING A TUTORIAL COURSE

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AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Office of Research and Evaluation

January 4,1982

TO: $\quad$ Paras Addressed
FROM: GIym Ligoneze
SUBJECT: Policy and Procedures Manual -Minimum Competencies for Eight School Graduation, Revision Regarding hEP Students and Tutorials

Please replace pages 3, 5; and 16 in your manual with these revised pages. at the direction of lurrence Buford, a procedure for freeing certain LEP students from taking tutorial courses upon recommendation of their LPAC's has been established forages 3 and 16). In addition, the criteria for the 9.0 competency level on the IIBS has been added (page 5).

GL: If
cc: Lawrence BuFord
Maud Sims Jarry richard


Approved':



## Lecter of Nocifficarion

If a student does not demonstrate comperency after pariticipating in a Special Seasion, the school may notify the student's parent or guaidian that the student has not yot met comperency and should be placed in a curortal course. - English and Spanish copies of che approved lecter of notification fornac are included in Appendix A.)

## Lecere of Haiver

* A student who is mable to mieer comperency after completfing one or more Rading
 lectar signed by the studenc's parent or guardian acknowledsing that the student proposes to graduace without achieving competance in that subject. (Appendir B contains Copies of the approved letter of waiver format in English and Spanish.)

The Language Proficiency Assessment Commitcee (LPAC) may deternine' that a limited English proficient (LEP) student should not take a turorial course is that student's Engilsh language proficiency is gefor the level required to berefit fron the turorial. A Ly studenc! may submic a letter of waiver without having cificen a tutorial if che LpAC recomiends courses ocher than a tutorial.
For students under the age of 18 , the letter of waiver must be signed by their parent or guardian. Students wio are 18 or older may sign their own letter of waiver. (If a student decides to do this, schools are to notify the student's parent or guardiain that thts is occurring.)

## 8.5 and 9.0 CFiterion Lavels

The Board policy that the 9.0 grade level competence criterion become effective with ene graduating class of 1983 was operationally de三ined* einough adeinis crative decisions to be reilected in che following statements:

1) The 8.5 level applies to any stucenc who had 10 or more units of eredit as of August 27, 1980, regariless of that studant's date of graduation; and
2) Any'scudent with fewer chan 10 units of credit as or August 27 , 1980, must meet the 9.0 level, regaviless of that student's dace or graçuarion.
*This operatignal derinition is based on the practical Eace that 21 units or credtr are required for graduation from an AISD atgh school and that normally a student ith 10 or mors units oi credit at eie begizning of che 1980-31 school year can je expecred to be graduated before the end of che spring semester of the 1982-83 school year; whereas, those having Eqwer chan 10 units of credit at the beginning of the 1980-81 school year can normally ba expected to be'graduated at the end of the spring semester of the 1982-83 scivol year or chereafter.

## TUTORTAL TESTING

## Students Required to Take a Tutorial Course

The tutorial course is requtred for students antering grade 11 who have completed four semesters of rating/language arts or earned (passed) two units of credit (four seiksers) in math but have not met competency in the subject.

Students who cransfor finto AISD with four semesters of reading/inguage arts completed or with th units of credte (fout semelyers) earned (passed) in math are allowed one semester tn which to demonstrate comperency before they are required to tala the tutorial course in the subject.

The Language Proficiency Assessanar Comitcee (IPAC) may detemine that a limited English proficient (LEP) student should not take a tutorial course if that studant's English language proficiency is below the level required to benefit from the tutorial. a Lap student may submit a leterer of waiver without having taken a tutorial if the toac recomends courses other than a. cutorial.

## Final Exam

At the end of the semester, 2 representative from ORE will administer a competency test to each rath and reading tutorial/class at the time oi the final exam. The ORE representative will give the test coordinatiot the resules the same day..

If a student does not demonstrate competency at ehifis tife, the student should be encouraged to repeat the tutorial course. The course may be repeated as long as progress is shown or until competency is met.

If the student does not meet competency after at least one tutorial course in a subject, a letter of waiver may be signed.

## School Preparations

The test coordinator should contace ons at least a week beiore ínal exams with the following friforsation: .

- The number of tutorial classes to be tested
- The name of the tutortal teachers
- The number of students in each class

- The Eesting data and time for each class
$\therefore$ The test location (room number) of each class
The test coordinator should give each tutortal teacher the presluggad answer sheets for the teactier's scudents. If a preslugged answer sheet is not available, the teacher should prepare one for the student. The student name, student numer, grade, school code, and citterion level (8.5 or g.0) should be filled in berare the testing day.

A registration form muse be prepared for each student being teated (Sae Figy
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INFORMATION SENT TO SCHOOLS FOR USE OF TABS SCORES FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

September 11, 1981


In response to inquiries from a high school, we have drafted the following addition to our competency testing program.
a TABS score from another school district nay be used to meet AISD's graduation competency requirements. The transfer student's official record must contain h the total raw score to be valid.

The administrative considerations related to this change are:

1. The TABS is given in the same manner, tet the same time, and scored by the same service regardless of district.
2. If a student is not credited with meeting comperemcy, thetestudent must be tested in a special session.
3. all districts will not send AISD. the individual TABS report with raw scores; . thus; all students will not be able to verify their scores.
4. We have never accepted scores made in another district before because of our lack of knowledge about their testing and scoring procedures. For the TABS, these are more standardized.

If you approve this change, please indicate below. We will notify the schools immediately if this change is approved.

G: KM:jc
approved:

approved: $/ N^{n}$


Director, Secondary School. Curriculum
approved:
Acting assistant Superintendent Bor secondary
approved:
approved:




September 16, 1981

TO: High School Principals, Counselors, Registrars
FROM:


SUB,JECT: Use or TABS Scores from Ocher Districts for AISD Comperency Requirements

A TABS score from another district may be used to meet AISD's graduation competency requirements. The transfer student's official record must contain the total raw score to be valid.

To have a transfer student's TABS score credited coward che competency requirements, send $=\boldsymbol{2}$ memo containing the following information.

- Student Name
- Student Number
- Current Grade Level
- Reading Total Raw Score
- Mach Total Raw Score
- Grade When the TABS Was Taken
.If you have any questions, call us at 458-1227.
GL: II


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\begin{aligned}
& c=: \text { Maud Sinagatd } \\
& \text { Jarry diehard } \\
& \text { Lawrenes BuFord }
\end{aligned}
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ATTACHMENT 7
, COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO MINIMUM COMPETENCY ACTIVITIES
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$6370^{\circ}$
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AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Office of Research and Evaluation

September 10, 1981

Lawrence Buford David Hill
Maud Sims
Jerry Richard.
Elgin Schilhab
Bertha Means
FROM:
Glynn Ligon Sersion
SUBJECT: Compecency Testing-Fall Special Sessions
Scheduling of chis fall's special compecency cesting sessions is beginning. For everyone's beneifit, we need to bẹ clear about which scudencs should be cested. In the past, schools have wanced to test as many students as possible co give chem as many chances as possible to meet compecency requiremeacs. The resulc has been some very large cascing sessions where up to 91\% of the studeats fail.

Page 12 of the Policy and Procedures Sanual, Xinimum Compecencies for High School Graduation, states our carefully chought out guidelines for . this testing.

## Tho Yay desend

setudenes may atiend a Spactal session Lif:
they hive zot set the compacancy requiresent in che subject area; 2) Ehay ara zot emmenely ancolled so a cueorial course in cho ambect aras: and
3) whec ehe spectal sessiou is ior...

## Yath Compatmer

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- eredif (four gemeaters) in meth.


## 3andins Corpecency

chay hava compleen or are in the semaster durian which they will complete fous seneaters of rasdtrg/Language arsy.





 sourre.
) Studeces qualifytes tor a spectai education exempetan zay ateand upon the zecemeadation of :ta dio.
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If these guidelines are still appropriate, I would like co send a note with the following points to each high school's competency testing coordinator.

1. The guidelines as on page 12 should be followed.
2. A major purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that students have maximum time and instruction prior to each competency rest to increase their probability of meeting competency $\downarrow$ This reduces the number of students who fail to meet competency in these special sessions. Testing students as often as possible just to increase their chances of passing is a disservice to chem when sufficient time and instruction have not occurred since their last testing.
3. Tench graders should not be tested chis semester unless they are eligible for a tutorial course in the spring.
4. Students enrolled in tutorial courses should not be rested in a special session.
5. Exceptions do exist, and each school aust make the final decision about whom to test.

GL: fe

Approved: $\frac{2}{\text { Director of Research and Gिvaluation }}$


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AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of Research and Evaluation

September 18, 1981

TO:
David H111
FROM:
SUBJECT: Results of This Eall's Senior Transfer Testing

We costed a coral of 150 senior transfer students this fall. The cable below summarizes the results.


Notes: 150 students were tested;
3 cook math only; 1 cook reading only.
The newest and mostrifequent question this fall has been about senior transfers who are LEP. The schools question placing a non-Englisin speaker in a reading tutorial. Some official response co this issue would be appreciated by the schools.

GL: 피
dpproved:
Director of Research and Evaluation


TO:
FROM:
SUBJECT: Guidelines for Tutorial Teachers
at the request of several tutorial teachers, we have developed these guidelines to help you prepare your students for the tutorial testing.

Please call me at 458-1227 if you have any questions about any of these guidelines.

KM: MI
Attachment

Approved:
 Director of Research and Evaluation

Approved:


Acting assistant s/peffatendent for Secondary
cc: High School Counselors
High School Principal/Assistant Principals/Deans Secondary Instructional Coordinators
Maud Sims
J. M. Richard

GUIDELINES FOR IUIORIAL TEACIERS

Nowse gutdellaes ary deulgurd to
clarily proceduras and ensure conaluruar uf preplarat lou througlumi tho dietrict.
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aghe thum tu:

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.and fillow them.
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do nat umbertstand.
4. Bhirk answera properly, to kenp thilt plane
on the aisucre shiset, and to mark uilly one
answer to an exerclue.
5. Bicase their thent enswer completely if
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AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRfCT. office of Research and Evaluation

October 13, 1981

| TO: | Lawrence Buford <br>  <br> David E $\pm 11$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| FROM: | Glyna Ligon |
| SUBJECT: $:$ | Competency Test Scheduling Issues |

We need to resolve some current issues regarding the scheduling of competency cesting. These issues are mainly instructional and have no direct bearing on the validicy of the cest results. Therefore, you are being asked co provide a decision on which the high schools and ORE can base future scheduling of competency testing.

1. Is fall senfor transfer testing necessary? Can ic be condüfed at the option of the school?
a. Senior cransfers who will graduace in che spring could be tested in the fall special sessions and take a cutorial course in the spring. Depending upon how many required courses these seniors must caike in che spring, scheduling in a cytorial
could be difficulc.
b. Senior transfers tho will graduace in the fallmust be tested in September of else a. cutorial course would not be scheduled, and cheir only option would be a letter if they did not meet competency in the fall special session.
'2. When should, the fall special sessions be scheduled? Early enougi for spring scheduling deadlines? As lace as possible to give the studears as much opportunity to learn the skills required and to avoid caking a cucorial? Anytime at the opeion of che schools?
a. For spring semester scheduling, some high schools want competency testing results as early as October. Resulcs provided later necessitace scheduling changes.
b. Scudencs wio are cesced early in the fall and do not meet competency leyels may have improved their scores just emough by the end of the semester to avoid a tutorial. Wich early cesting, more students will be taking cutorials.
2. The same issue as numier 2 exists for spring special sessions.

Lawrence Buford
David 8111
October 13, 1981
Page 2 ,

Logistically, our staff can handle just about any scheduling decision. In fact, testing all schools at the end of each semester as we do now is the most difficult for us.

I am available to discuss these issues at your convenience.' Some decision by January will allow us to make any revisions to our testing schedules for this spring.
T
GL:1f
cc: Maud Sims
J. M. Richard

Approved:


Februafy 1982


The cable nelow shows that this spring's senior cransfers did well on the comperency test.

Senior Trans三er
Spring 1982


GL:if

Approved:


# AUSTH: INDEPE:IOE:IT SCHOOL OISTRICT <br> Division of Instruction <br> Departinent of Secondary Education <br> March 5, 1982 

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TO:
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SUBJECI: Hich School Completion Matheratic: Competencies

A comparison of tie identiciable objectives $\because$ viribus standardized
 High School objectives revzals many similaritics. in ins and ictid objectives are the same wilile the ITBS objectives include all TABS objectives plads some others. Since similarities exist between the TABS, NC:H, STEP, and ITOS objectives and since a list of minimum graduation coupetencies in mathematics is needed, it appears reasonable that the Division or Secondary Education shouid request the 0itice of Research and Evaluation to develop an iten bank to neasure minimun matheriatics competencies for graduation based abon ooiectives identicad to tite- iniss objectives.

Since a new curricifluan guide will be develored this sumer, a reaction to this proposal is desired to avoid the devolopuent of cuides and a testing orogran that is inconsistent with the curricuidin.
jiv


RESE:RCH $\begin{gathered}a \\ E \\ \text { ALSTHOA }\end{gathered}$ SYSTEMADE TESTHG

# AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICI . <br> - Division of Instruction <br> Department of Secondary.Education March 10, 1982 



MAR 1: $10 \varepsilon 2$
MEMORANDUM
TO:
FROM:
SUBJECT: ?
Maud Sims
RESEARCH द EVALUTTION SYSTEMWHE TESTM,

To facilitate our plans to commence the design of the District's minimum competency tests in secondăry reading, which will measure "what we have taught," I am presenting a comparison of Skills Objectives in Reading on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills with the skills bbjectives listed on the Texas Assessment $\frac{0}{\text { Af }} \frac{8 a s i c}{\text { skills }}$ tests. The exit-level reading objectives in the Texas Assessment of Basic skills Activities Books, published in 1980 and 1981, are identical to the objectives listed in the Reading Tutorial Guide developed in 1978 by the Division of Instruction; Austin ISD.

See attachment.

According to this comparison, teachers have taught reading skills that are not included on the ITBS, which were recently used to assess minimum competency.
Since teachers and some administrators are concerned that we design tests that reflect what has been taught, I am suggesting that the minimum competency tests in secondary reading focus on TABS Exit-level objectives one through seven. These objective are:
». Identify the main idea
2. Arrange a list of events in sequence
3. Perceive cause/effect relationships
4. Evaluate and make judgments on the basis of information given
5. Distinguish between fact and non'fact
6. Make inferences and draw logical conclusions,
7. Arrive at a generalization from a given series of details and/or assumptions.

Since we plan to revise our Reading Tutorial Guide during June, 198่2, I would be interested in meeting with you and Dr. "Holley's staff to discuss these objectives and plans for developing the Austin Independent School District's ilinimum Competency Tests in Reading.

Please let me hear from you as soon as posfible.

A Comparison of Skills Objectives listed on ITBS with Skllls Objectives listed on FABS




ITBS (con't)


TABS (con't)

## vi

No. Skills

Arrive at a generalization from a given series of details and/or 4 assumptions
Evaluare and nake judyments on the basis of information given

1
ion: To understand th selection
G3 Application: To apply information through generalization or prediction 5 Purpose: To recognize the author's purpose, motive, or intention Viewoint: To recognire the author's vieupoint, attitude, ar bias figurative language

## tone of a selection

Style: To recognize qualities of style or structure

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2
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8. Follow written directions involving subordinate steps
9. Use the various parts of a book as aids in. lockating informathon (e.g., title page, table of contents, preface; index)
10. Use various sources as aids in locating informition (e.g., dictionary, telephone book, encyclopedia, newspaper)
11. Use graphic sources to get information (e.g., tables and lists, charts and graphs, maps and globes, pictures and diagrams, scale dravings, transportation schedules) $\stackrel{5}{2}$

Items 8-11 on TABS tests are covered adequately on Test W . Work-Study Skills on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. Although item 8, following written directions involving subordinate steps, is not listed among skills on the ItBS, it is infered throughout the test and especially in the Work Study Section. TABS, however, delineates this objective with sufficient activites and materials for teaching it.

MEMORANDUM
Ms. Sims/Dr. Holley

## RECEIVED

# APR 161982 <br> research \& evaluation 

FROM:
Elgin Schilhab
SUBJECT: $\quad$ FOM Tutorial Testing
It is the opinions of some FOM Tutorial teachers that ORE should do three things to improve the testing atmosphere in the FOM Tutorial classes.

1. The order of the Efsts should be

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { a. computation } \\
& \text { b. concepts } \\
& \text { c. problem folving }
\end{aligned}
$$

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT School district
Office of Research and Evaluation

April 20, 1982

TO:
FROM:
SUBJECT: Your april 15 Memo on FOM Tutorial Testing

Eire are responses to chloe three concerns stated in your memo.

1. The math tests should be ordered: computation, concepts, problem solving.

We do not know of any evidence chat students would score higher if the order were to be changed. The order in which the ITBS tests are administered matches che order followed in the standardization and worming thus, if we maintain thar order, we maximize the appropriateness of the norms.
2. Test administrators need to exhibit a cheerful, smiling, and positive disposition that makes the students believe that they can do "well" on , the test. FOM Tutorial students need confidence. They need to be told that they con "do it."

We are working with our testers to ensure that they are supportive and friendly; but business like. In no instance should they imply that anyching is more important than the ongoing tasting. However, it is not the role of the ester to cell the students that they can do well on the est. ,
3. Each test administrator should be familiar with the test. It was reported that one test administrator started a tutorial sofas on the wrong test. When the error was discovered, the testing session was started over. These students were late to their next class. While the tutorial students were completing the test, other students were entering the room. FOM Tutorial students need understanding and confidence, not confusion.

Wis followed up on this when 4 c was first reported, the tester was confected with, and we hive since been even wore careful about the preparation dis testers. Oứr testers are trained and required to observe testing sessions before they are given the responsibility of testing on their own. Fortunately, chis was an isolated'instance.

GL:1f.
cc: Maud Sims

Approved:


ATTACHMENT 7
(Continued, page 16 of 16)


AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of Research and Evaluation
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April 23, 1982

TO:
FROM:


SUBJECT: Timeline for Development of an Item Bank and Multiple Forms of a Locally Developed Test for Minimum Competency

The following "timeline is $t i g h t "$ and assumes that we can use available in this year's budget to contract for item review and some item writing. Under . that condition and barring any unforeseen problems, we can have a TABS-objegetivebased competency test ready

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\begin{gathered}
\text { Now - August, } 1982 \\
\text { July - August, } 1982 \\
\text { July - August, } 1982
\end{gathered}
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September, 1982
September - October, 1982
November - December, 1982

Use ITBS for senior trans- fer competency testing

Compile and print alternate forms of locally developed competency tests

Administer locally developed competency tests in special sessions

GL:1f

Approved:

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IHURM AI 1982 TABS MATH RAW SCQRES: (CUMULATIVE FREQUENÉY DISTRIBUTIONS)

'IFORM BI 1982 TABS MATḰH RAH SCORES:
(CUMULATIVE FREQUENCY DIISTRIBUTIONS
(CUMULAİIVE FHEQUENCY DISTRIBUTIGNIS)


81.76 DOCUMENTATION OF WHY SOME STUDENTS WHO SIGNED A LETTER OF WAIVER DID NOT TAKE A TU'TORIAL COURSE IN THE SUBJECT
(This information was obtained by conversations with registrars at several high schools.)

1. Student A entered AISD at midterm (spring), then graduated shortly thereafter.
2. Student $B$ was in AISD only one semester, as a tuition student.
3. Student $C$ was in AISD ofly one semester, as a tuition student.
4. Student D. was at Kealing lást fall (Kealing does' not have tutorials), then lef $\ddagger$ hool midterm. She did take basic math and CLA.
5: Student entered in late January; school "couldn"t get her in". a tutorial.
5. Student $F$ is handicapped with multiple sclerosis (severe arm/hand dysfunction), most of her senior classes were special education. This student was not exempted by her ARD Committee.
6. Student $G$ did not ever pass four semesters af math until this past semesťer.
81.76 : . DÓCUMENTATION OF COMPUTER ${ }^{\circ}$ PROGRAMS USED TO GENERATE DATA FOR FIGURES \& IN THIS REPORT ,

Figure Number,
3
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6
7
10
11

12
13
14
18
20
$\checkmark$ Program Name
MC-FR005-01-01
MC-FR001-01-01
MC-FRO01-01-01
SW̌-STRNG-01-01
MC-FR007-0.1-01
MC-FROO4-01-01 (Number of tutorials and years in AISD)
MC-FR004-03-01. (Sex and ethnicity) MC-FR004-04-01 (LEP status)
MC-FR004-05-01 (Average age)
MC-FR004-06-01 (Average GPA)
MC-FR004-01-01
MC-FRO02-01-01
.MC-FR003-01-01
MC-FR004-09-09


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\end{aligned}
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