

Appendix A: Sample Language to Parents Regarding Honor Statements

The following sample language can be used or adapted by districts to inform parents in advance of the honor statement students were asked to sign beginning with the spring 2008 test administrations and extended in spring 2009 to students in grades 9–11 taking TAKS–M assessments.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to let you know of a change that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has made in testing procedures for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Beginning in spring 2008, students in grades 9, 10, and exit level were asked to sign an honor statement before taking TAKS tests. In spring 2009 this measure is being extended to students taking TAKS–Modified (TAKS–M) tests. The honor statement is shown below. This statement will be printed on each student’s answer sheet, and students will be asked to sign it before the test begins.

By signing my name, I agree that I will not give or receive unauthorized assistance during the test. I understand that giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during the test is cheating and may result in the invalidation of my test results.

“Invalidation” of test results means that the student’s test would not be scored and the student would not receive test results.

The TAKS tests are required by both state and federal law. The test results are used to monitor and improve public education for all Texas students. The addition of an honor statement is one of several steps the state of Texas is taking to ensure that each student’s test results are an accurate indicator of his or her academic performance. Other state testing programs and college entrance exams include similar honor statements.

I hope that I can count on your support of this new procedure.

Sincerely,

(school principal or superintendent)

Estimado padre de familia o tutor:

Esta carta tiene la finalidad de informarle de un cambio que la Agencia de Educación de Texas (TEA) ha hecho en cuanto a los procedimientos de evaluación de la prueba TAKS. A partir de la primavera del 2008, a los estudiantes en los grados 9, 10 y nivel de salida se les pidió que firmaran un juramento de honor antes de tomar la prueba TAKS. En la primavera del 2009, esta medida se ha extendido a estudiantes que toman la prueba TAKS-M (TAKS-Modified). Este juramento aparecerá en inglés en cada uno de los documentos de respuesta de la prueba TAKS con el propósito de que los estudiantes lo firmen antes de que empiece la prueba. El juramento al que se hace mención viene enseguida en español.

Al firmar aquí, estoy de acuerdo en que no daré ni recibiré ningún tipo de ayuda que no esté autorizada durante la prueba. Comprendo que dar o recibir ayuda no autorizada durante la prueba es hacer trampa y podría ocasionar la invalidación de los resultados de mi prueba.

La “invalidación” de los resultados de la prueba significa que la prueba del estudiante no será calificada y, en consecuencia, el estudiante no recibirá ningún resultado.

La prueba TAKS es obligatoria de acuerdo con leyes estatales y federales. Los resultados de la prueba se utilizan para evaluar y mejorar el sistema de educación pública de los estudiantes de Texas. El juramento de honor es una de las medidas que el estado de Texas está tomando para asegurarse de que los resultados de la prueba de cada estudiante sea un indicador preciso de su desempeño académico. Existen otros programas de evaluación a nivel estatal, así como pruebas de admisión de algunas universidades, que incluyen juramentos de honor semejantes.

Le agradecemos con anticipación su apoyo para este nuevo procedimiento.

Atentamente,

(Director de la escuela o Superintendente del distrito escolar)

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