

COMMISSIONER'S 14-POINT SECURITY PLAN



PN-GISD

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What is the TEA Commissioner's 14-point Security Plan?

TEA's Task Force on Test Integrity recommended to the Commissioner of Education the 14-Point Security Plan. In June 2007, TEA introduced a comprehensive 14-point plan designed to assure parents, students, and the public that test results are meaningful and valid. Descriptions of the 14-point measures were first introduced in the 2007-2008 Test Security Supplement with aspects of the plan implemented since the introduction and other measures instituted over the years. The following website provides the rational and timeline recommendations for implementation of the 14-point Test Security Plan:

http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/security/14point_Recommendations_and_Timelines.pdf

Recommendation #1

TEA will analyze scrambled blocks of test questions to detect answer copying.

Recommendation #2

TEA will assign independent test monitors to campuses based on evidence of testing irregularities and make unannounced visits to additional campuses on test days.

Recommendation #3

TEA will require districts to implement seating charts for use during all state assessment administrations.

Recommendation #4

TEA will develop a transparent method to annually identify statistically irregular patterns of test answers that may indicate cheating to augment other detection methods already in use.

Recommendation #5

TEA will contract with a national expert for independent review and advice on statistical cheating detection.

Recommendation #6

TEA will require school districts to provide information that links test administrators to students.

Recommendation #7

TEA will require students in certain grades to sign a grade-appropriate pledge of honor immediately prior to taking a state assessment, just as all test administrators are required to sign a security oath prior to each administration.

Recommendation #8

TEA will add to the list of sanctions for cheating, lowering a school districts' accreditation rating.

Recommendation #9

TEA will provide additional information in test administration manuals related to consequences for educators and students if cheating occurs.

Recommendation #10

TEA will require school district to report to TEA any investigatory and disciplinary actions taken against educators and students locally.

Recommendation #11

TEA will require school districts to maintain test security materials, signed security oaths, and seating charts for five years following a test administration.

Recommendation #12

TEA will develop a model policy on test integrity and test security procedures for adoption by local school boards.

Recommendation #13

TEA will ensure that state investigations, sanctions, and corrective actions are conducted in a fair, expeditious, and equitable manner.

Recommendation #14

TEA will require test administrators to participate in a standardized online training program that addresses mandatory test security procedures.

According to timeline established and printed in the revised 04/06/10 TEA posting, all Recommendations for Implementation of the 14-point Test Security Plan have been met as of publishing this document.

Resources:

"Texas Education Agency – Test Security." Texas Education Agency – Welcome. Web, 20 Oct. 2010. http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3206&menu_id=793.