T-TESS Texas Teacher Evaluation Support System



2023-2024 T-TESS Reference Manual

TORNILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vision: Believe we can succeed; with pride we will achieve.

Mission: Tornillo ISD's Mission is to empower our learning community to live their purpose by honoring values and beliefs for a holistic postsecondary journey.

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T-TESS Reference Manual

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Introduction

T-TESS (Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System) is the Texas recommended appraisal process to evaluate teachers and establish a system of support. T-TESS focuses on providing continuous, timely and formative feedback to educators so they can improve their practice.

Purpose

The Tornillo ISD T-TESS Reference Manual has been put together to ensure that you are informed on the different components that guide Tornillo ISD and the implementation of T-TESS for the 2023-2024 school year. Throughout this manual, you will find:

• District T-TESS Calendar:

Information on the District appraisal schedule and procedures associated with T-TESS.

• T-TESS Domains and Dimensions:

These are descriptors used in the T-TESS rubric. The Domains and Dimensions were created with the Texas Teacher Standards as the foundation of T-TESS. (For additional detailed information, download the T-TESS Teacher Handbook at https://teachfortexas.org.)

• New Hire Orientation Information:

Schedule of T-TESS Orientation Information provided to those teachers hired after the initial District training in July 2023.

• T-TESS Frequently Asked Questions:

Easily accessible information on the most commonly asked questions regarding the T-TESS.

• Policy and Regulations:

Tornillo ISD guideline on what and how to implement the T-TESS.

T-TESS Components

- 1. Goal-Setting
- 2. Evaluation Cycle (pre-conference, observation, post-conference)
- 3. Student Growth

Teacher Appraisal Calendar

Appraisal Process Timelines:

Excluded Observation Days No appraisal observations may be conducted the day before

or after a school holiday or the day of district or state

testing.

Complete by September 08, 2023 Goal Setting (All Teachers)

Complete by February 29, 2024 Announced Observation

Complete by March 26, 2024 Post Observation Conference

Complete by April 26, 2024 Minimum of 2 Walk-Throughs with Feedback per 9

Weeks, per Appraisee.

Complete by May 10, 2024 Complete EOY Summative Goals / Conferences

• All T-TESS Appraisers must be T-TESS certified.

- All Post Observation Conferences must be completed within five (5) to seven (7) working days after the observation.
- Appraisers should ensure that all teachers have been T-TESS trained prior to beginning the appraisal cycle.
- T-TESS training for teachers hired after July 31, 2023 will be trained within one month of their hire date. Please contact the respective Campus Principal or the Human Resources Manager for orientation / training information. Appraisals may not begin until 3 weeks after the training is completed.
- "Teacher Response and Appeal" and "Request for Second Appraiser" information is included in the following section.

Teacher Response and Appeals and Request for Second Appraiser

A teacher may submit a written response or rebuttal at the following times:

- a. After receiving a written observation summary, or any other written documentation associated with the teacher's appraisal; and or
- b. After receiving a written summative annual appraisal report. §150.1005(a)

Any written response or rebuttal must be submitted within ten (10) working days of receiving written observation summary, a written end of year annual report, or any other documentation associated with the teacher's appraisal. At the discretion of the appraiser, the time period may be extended to 15 working days. §150.1005(b)

A teacher may request a **second appraisal** by another appraiser at the following times:

- a. For Domains I, II, and III, as identified in §150.10052(a), after receiving a written observation summary with which the teacher disagrees; and/or
- b. For Domain IV, as identified in §150.1002(a), after receiving a written end of year annual appraisal report with which the teacher disagrees.

Within ten (10) working days of receiving a written observation summary or written end or year appraisal report, the teacher shall submit a hard copy request to the Human Resources Manager to include the name of the campus, the name of the teacher's appraiser along with the date of receipt of the written observation summary and written summative annual appraisal report.

If a teacher requests a second appraisal by another certified district appraiser, the second appraiser will be determined in accordance with the following:

- The second appraiser will be randomly selected by the Superintendent or designee from a pre-established roster of trained appraisers.
- Trained Appraisers: Campus Administrators; Instructional Coordinator; and Superintendent.
- The formal observation for a second appraisal shall be unscheduled.

The second appraisal shall make observations and walk-throughs as necessary to evaluate Domains I through III. The second appraiser shall use cumulative data from the first appraisal to evaluate Domain IV. Cumulative data may also be used by the second appraiser to evaluate other domains. §150.1005

Should he teacher desire written comments in response to the written summative annual appraisal report, said written request must be made of the appraiser within ten (10) working days of receiving the report. The appraiser must respond within ten (10) working days of receipt of the request. A teacher desiring to present a grievance concerning his/her appraisal will utilize the procedure outlined in the District Policy DGBA.

T-TESS Domains and Dimensions

Domain I: Planning Dimensions:

- 1.1- Standards and Alignment
- 1.2- Data and Assessment
- 1.3- Knowledge of Students
- 1.4- Activities

Domain II: Instruction Dimensions:

- 2.1- Achieving Expectations
- 2.2- Content Knowledge and Expertise
- 2.3- Communication
- 2.4- Differentiation
- 2.5- Monitor and Adjust

Domain III: Learning Environment Dimensions:

- 3.1- Classroom and Environment, Routines and Procedures
- 3.2- Managing Student Behavior
- 3.3- Classroom Culture

Domain IV: Professional Practice and Responsibilities Dimensions:

- 4.1- Professional Demeanor and Ethics
- 4.2- Goal Setting
- 4.3- Professional Development
- 4.4- School Community Involvement

Domain V: Student Growth

Student Growth

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, student growth became a required component in teacher appraisal for any district to which Texas Education Code Sec. 21.351 and 21.352 apply. Tornillo ISD will be utilizing Portfolios during the 2023-2024 academic year to measure student growth.

Tornillo ISD teachers will be provided a single overall summative rating, student growth must count at least 20% of the overall summative rating. In that sense, student growth acts like the fifth domain, with the four rubric domains accounting for the other 80% of the teacher's overall summative rating.

For student growth to be a valuable tool in continuous improvement, educators should keep the following in mind:

- Although it's called student growth, it is really about teacher growth
- Student growth is not the end in itself the key to a meaningful experience with student growth measures is the ability to translate the student growth outcomes into feedback on pedagogical practices
- In contrast to an observation, which captures impact in a snapshot of time, student growth captures impact over an entire course
- Honest assessment of pedagogy, sincere reflection on the approach to planning, and a commitment to adjustment are the best ways to improve student growth
- Ratings are less important than the process of professional growth

Student growth measures how much a student progresses academically during his or her time with a teacher. It takes into consideration a student's entering skill level when measuring how much the student grew over time, and, as opposed to measuring student proficiency on an assessment, student growth isn't concerned with whether a student passes a particular test or reaches a predetermined and uniform benchmark. It considers equally students who enter behind grade level, on grade level, and beyond grade level, tailoring growth expectations to each student's context.

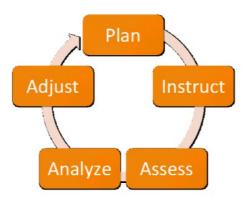
Student growth has the following characteristics:

- Measures academic progress over time
- Establishes a baseline for each student covered in the measure that captures what learning the student brought into class
- Tailors the expectation for growth to the student (reflects rigorous instruction and high expectations, but is not a uniform expectation for all students) considering...

Student Growth Measures Are:

- A means to teacher growth (reflect, assess, adjust, and develop over time)
- A concentration look at instructional impact through the lens of the most important skill(s)

- A part of a teacher's own cycle of development (results could feed in to Goal Setting and Professional Development plans)
- Evidence-based



Process-based student growth measures are less about cut-scores and single assessments and more about the "teaching loop," where teachers engage in evidence-based instruction and leads to consistent adjustments and improvements to practice and planning:

Portfolios

Portfolios accumulate student work over the course of time to capture incremental steps in student progress with given content or skills. Portfolios have the following characteristics:

- Work best with a focus narrowed to foundational skills
- Determine the baseline for each student covered in the measure upon entering the course
- Determine the expectation for each student covered in the measure at the end of the course
- Determine what the demonstration of performance will be throughout or at the end of the course

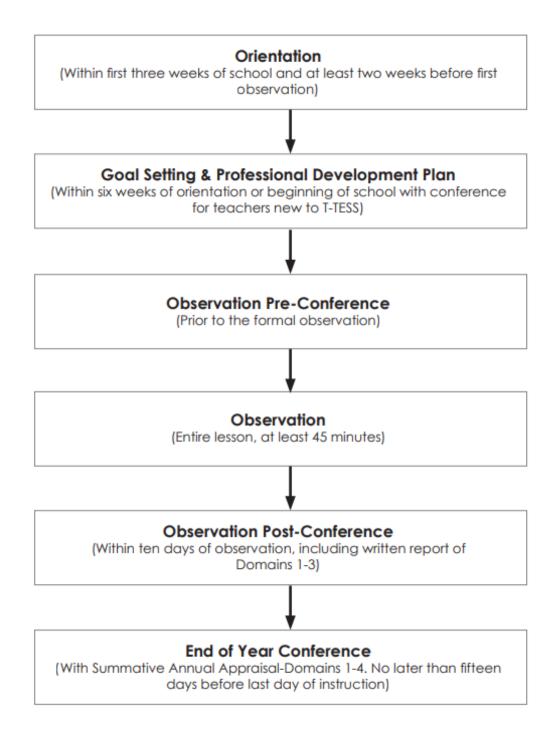
Portfolios accumulate student work over the course of time to capture incremental steps in student progress with given content or skills. Also, they can capture a range of end-of-course demonstrations of performance, showing student skill in a multitude of forms.

Portfolios can also be valuable for teachers that work with students in smaller increments of time or responsibility, such as teachers on alternative placement campuses or teachers who work with students in content mastery one or two days a week. In those instances, the teacher would capture evidence of student progress during his or her time with the student in order to show the impact of the teacher's pedagogy.

Evaluation Process

,			
	Current Year		Next Year
Weeks 1-6	Weeks 6 through	At Least 15 Days	Weeks 1-6
	End-of-Year Conferences	Prior to the Last	
		Day of Instruction	
Teacher Orientation	Teacher Orientation for Late Hires	End-of-Year Conferences	Teacher Orientation for
(No later than the first three		- Review summative scores	teachers new to T-TESS,
weeks of school and at least	Goal-Setting and Professional Development Plan for	for Domains I, II and III	the district, and when
two weeks betore the first observation)	Late Hires	 Review the data and evidence gathered 	district policy has changed
Goal-Setting and	- Submitted to the appraiser within six weeks from the day of	throughout the appraisal	from the last orientation.
Professional	the completion of the orientation.	year for Domain IV,	(No later than the first three
Development (GSPD)		including the teacher's evidence for this	weeks by school and at least two weeks before the first
Plan	Ungoing review of teacher and student data	domain/dimensions	observation)
- Submitted to the	1 4450	- Review results of the	
appraiser for approval	Ungoing review of the GSPD plan to formatively	performance of the	Goal-Setting and
within six weeks from the	assess progress towards goals, professional	teachers' students	Professional Development
day or compretion or the	development impact, and teacher and student	 Review potential goals 	(GSPD) Plan
Onentation. - A GSPD Conference is	performance	and protessional development plans for	- Returning teachers
required for a teacher in		the next school year	review the goal(s)
the first year of appraisal	Ongoing collection of evidence to support Domain IV	Note: Domain 4 is not scored until	established at the EOY
under T-TESS and	- Teacher and appraiser	after the teacher has been	Conference to determine
teachers new to the		afforded an opportunity to	if changes are needed,
district.		present evidence related to each of the four dimensions durina the	and submit within first six
		end-of-year conference.	weeks of instruction.
			- through the GSPD process
Informal observation	Informal observations and walkthroughs with ongoing feedback to support and develop	upport and develop	to self-assess, develop
	teacher practices		goals, and establish a
	Formal observation window established per local policy	r local policy –	professional development
	Excludes/prohibits observations in the two weeks following the	eks following the	plan, then submit within
	orientation		six weeks of the orientation.

T-TESS Process



New Hire Orientation Information

Date	Time	Location
Friday, September 22, 2023	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Central Office
Friday, November 17, 2023	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Central Office
Friday, January 26, 2024	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Central Office
Friday, March 29, 2024	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Central Office

T-TESS Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Who will the District choose to conduct classroom observations on each campus?
 - District and Campus administrators who are trained in T-TESS will conduct classroom observations.
- 2. How many formal observations shall be conducted each year?
 - One formal observation shall be conducted for the 2023-2024 school year with unlimited walkthroughs.
- 3. Will the observation be announced (scheduled) or unannounced (not-scheduled)?
 - *The observation will be announced (scheduled).*
- 4. Will this number be the same for both beginning and veteran teachers?
 - Yes, one formal observation with unlimited walkthroughs will be the same for both beginning and veteran teachers.
- 5. Will this number be the same for core and non-core subject area teacher?
 - Yes, one formal observation with unlimited walkthroughs will the same for both core and non-core subject area teachers.
- 6. How will the District provide T-TESS orientation for teachers who are hired after the academic year begins?
 - *The District will provide an orientation for New Teacher Hires (Schedule)*
- 7. Will walkthroughs be conducted for the purpose of feedback only, or will the data be included in the overall scoring?
 - Walkthroughs are inclusive of the overall scoring for the end of year score.
- 8. Will the District choose to make the pre-conference a required component?
 - *Yes, the pre-conference is a required component of the T-TESS cycle.*
- 9. Does the beginning of the year teacher self-assessment and goal setting require a face-to-face conference with an administrator?
 - Yes, teachers and appraisers work collaboratively to complete the requirement.

10. If the pre-conference is required, what will the teacher and appraiser do in preparation? What artifacts will be expected?

• Being that the pre-conference is required, the teacher and the appraiser may have a checklist of artifacts to have prepared such as lesson plans, student expectations, and or a daily schedule.

11. Will teachers be expected to conduct a self-assessment (self-scoring) on the rubric following the lesson observation?

• No, teachers will not be expected to conduct a self-assessment following the lesson observation.

12. What guidelines will be put in place to ensure post-conferences are conducted in a timely manner? What will the time parameters be for completion pf the face-to-face post-conference?

• The post-conference is required for all formal classroom observations and must be conducted between 5 to 7 but definitely by no later than 10 business days from the date of the observation (see the T-TESS Calendar).

13. If a teacher has a question or concern about an observation score or process, what guidelines are in place to afford due process?

• If a teacher has a question or concern about an observation score or process, the teacher may rebut or request a second appraisal.

14. If a teacher has T-TESS Dimensions scored as Improvement Needed, what local measures will be put in place to guide professional growth and improvement?

• Campus administration will provide and put a support system in place to assist the educator in the area(s) of deficiency.

15. How will the District document the T-TESS process?

• The District will document through Eduphoria.

16. What will appraisers archive, in addition to the end of year observation summary, each year to document T-TESS performance?

• The appraisers will archive goal setting and walkthroughs.

17. Who will be responsible for monitoring proper and timely data entry and reporting of T-TESS appraisal data?

• The department of Human Resources will ensure to monitor proper and timely data entry reporting of the T-TESS appraisal data.

18. Will the District use the state-provided data management system for T-TESS?

• The District will use the Strive (Eduphoria) as the data management system for T-TESS.

19. How will T-TESS observation data and summary reports be used systematically to inform professional development?

• Campus administration will provide professional development opportunities in response to data gathered from T-TESS observation and summary report.

20. How will Student Growth affect my overall rating?

• Teachers will be provided a single overall summative rating. Student growth will count at least 20% of the overall summative rating. The Student Growth component acts like the fifth domain, with the four rubric domains accounting for the other 80% of the teacher's overall summative rating.

Policy and Regulations

TORNILLO ISD 071908

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL EVALUATION OF TEACHERS

DNA (LOCAL)

APPRAISAL SYSTEM	The formal appraisal of district teachers shall be in accordance with the Texas Teacher Evaluation Support System (T-TESS).		
	All district teachers will be appraised each year.		
	Components of the appraisal process, such as classroom observa- tions and walk-throughs, will be conducted as frequently as neces- sary to ensure that teachers receive appropriate guidance.		
	The district shall establish an appraisal calendar each year.		
T-TESS GOAL SETTING	Goal setting will take place on a yearly basis. Goals collaboratively developed by the educator and administrator will be aligned with the Texas Educator Performance Standards.		
PRE-CONFERENCE	A pre-conference meeting will be held prior to each formal evalua- tion. During the pre-conference meeting the date and time of the formal observation will be scheduled. Pre-conference meetings cannot be waived.		
FORMAL OBSERVATION	All district teachers will receive one formal observation. The appraiser will observe a minimum of 45 minutes or for the duration of a full cycle (beginning, middle, and end).		
POST- CONFERENCE	A post conference meeting will be held within ten (10) business days following the formal observation. Post conference meetings cannot be waived.		
END-OF-YEAR CONFERENCE	A summative annual conference will be held with each teacher each year. Summative conference meetings cannot be waived.		
ALTERNATE APPRAISER	A teacher may request a second appraiser within ten working days of receiving a written observation summary or a written summative annual appraisal report. If a teacher requests a second appraisal by another certified district appraiser, the second appraiser will be determined in accordance with the following:		
	 The second appraiser will be randomly selected by the Su- perintendent or designee from a pre-established roster of 		

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dinator, and Superintendent.

· Trained Appraisers: Campus Administrators; Bilingual Coor-

The formal observation for a second appraisal shall be

trained appraisers.

unscheduled.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL EVALUATION OF TEACHERS

DNA (LOCAL)

SCORES The Board of Trustees shall ensure that the Superintendent or de-

signee establishes procedures regarding how domain scores from

first and second appraisals will be used.

GRIEVANCES Complaints regarding a teacher appraisal should be addressed in

accordance with DGBA(LOCAL).

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL EVALUATION OF TEACHERS DNA REGULATION

NOTE:

This document aligns with the appraisal practices recommended by TEA for the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) as described at the TEA site https://teachfortexas.org.

TEACHER APPRAISAL SYSTEM T-TESS is a process that seeks to develop habits of continuous improvement with evidence-based feedback and professional development decisions based on that feedback through ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

Components of the appraisal process, such as classroom observations and walk-throughs, will be conducted as frequently as necessary to ensure that teachers receive appropriate guidance.

SELF-ASSESSMENT AND GOAL SETTING The teacher self-assessment, goal setting, and professional development processes are all interwoven and applied throughout the school year to positively impact each teacher's professional practices and ultimately increase student performance.

Each teacher will review data and reflect on his or her professional practice, including reviewing the domains, dimensions, and descriptors of the T-TESS rubric.

A teacher who is new to the district or who is in the first year of the appraisal process will receive an orientation and will be guided through the self-assessment and goal-setting process to establish a professional development plan. Within six weeks of completing the orientation, a leacher who is new to the district or who is in the first year of the appraisal process will formulate targeted goals on the Teacher Self-Assessment and Goal-Setting Form and schedule an in-person goal setting conference with his or her appraiser. After the conference, the teacher will submit his or her Goal-Setting and Professional Development Plan to the appraiser for approval.

A returning teacher will review the goal(s) and professional development plan established at the end-of-year conference to determine if changes are needed. The teacher will submit to the appraiser his or her Goal-Setting and Professional Development Plan within the first six weeks of the school year to the appraiser for approval.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GOALS Each teacher will regularly monitor progress toward his or her goals. If the teacher feels the goals need to be modified, the teacher should make an appointment with his or her appraiser to discuss individual progress toward his or her goals and / or obtain additional support.

DATE ISSUED: 07/19/2016

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REGULATION

DNA REGULATION

PRE-CONFERENCE

The purpose of the pre-conference is for the appraiser and teacher to mutually discuss the upcoming formative observation with a focus on the interrelationships between planning, instruction, the learning environment, and student outcomes. The pre-conference will be conducted with ten working days of an announced observation.

The pre-conference will provide the teacher an opportunity to demonstrate his or her knowledge and skills for the planning domain and its correlating dimensions. The conference is primarily focused on the upcoming observation and what the teacher has planned to ensure that the instructional objective(s) are met.

FORMAL OBSERVATION

The teacher will be formally observed in the classroom one time unless the appraiser / teacher deem additional observations to be necessary. A classroom observation will be an instructional period or a complete lesson within an instructional period that consists of a minimum of 45 minutes of instruction.

By mutual, written consent between the appraiser and the teacher, the required minimum of 45 minutes of observation may be conducted in shorter time segments. The time segments must aggregate to at least 45 minutes.

Each teacher may have additional walk-throughs that provide actionable, timely feedback, which will allow the teacher to make efficient and contextual professional development choices to help refine the practice. If data gathered during the additional walk-throughs will impact the teacher's summative appraisal rating, a written summary will be shared with the teacher within ten working days after the completion of the additional walk-throughs.

NOTICE

The formal observation for a teacher's appraisal will be announced by date and time.

The district will establish an appraisal calendar each year, and provide the calendar to teachers within the first three weeks of the school year.

POST-CONFERENCE

All observations will include an in-person post conference within ten working days of the observation.

The overall purpose of the post-conference is to provide a teacher an opportunity to self-reflect on the execution of his or her lesson, including the impact on student performance. The results will be used to inform and guide the teacher regarding future practices and growth.

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PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL EVALUATION OF TEACHERS

DNA REGULATION

END-OF-YEAR CONFERENCE

The end-of-year conference will be held at least 15 days prior to the last day of instruction to discuss overall performance for the year. End-of-year conference are mandatory.

Each teacher will provide his or her appraiser with an update regarding the professional goals and development plan that were developed at the beginning of the year.

PRELIMINARY GOAL-SETTING AND PLANNING FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR

Following the end-of-year conference, the appraiser and teacher will discuss how the current year self-assessment and goal-setting process will continue into the next school year for continuous improvement including professional development to support learning.

SUMMATIVE ANNUAL APPRAISAL REPORT

A written summative annual appraisal report will be provided to the teacher within ten working days of the conclusion of the end-ofyear conference. The report will be shared with the teacher no later than 15 working days before the last day instruction for students. The written summative annual appraisal report will be placed in the teacher's personnel file by the end of the appraisal period.

APPRAISER

Each teacher will be appraised by a certified appraiser. If the certified appraiser is not the teacher's supervisor, the appraiser will be selected from the list of certified appraisers approved by the Board of Trustees.

SECOND APPRAISER

A teacher may request a second appraiser within ten working days of receiving a written observation summary or a written summative annual appraisal report. If a teacher requests a second appraisal by another certified district appraiser, the second appraiser will be determined in accordance with the following:

- The second appraiser will be randomly selected by the Superintendent or designee from a pre-established roster of trained appraisers.
- Trained Appraisers: Campus Administrators; Instructional Coordinator; and Superintendent.
- The formal observation for a second appraisal shall be unscheduled.

TEACHER RESPONSE AND REBUTTAL

A teacher may submit a written response or rebuttal within ten working days of receiving a written observation summary, a written summative annual appraisal report, or any other written documentation associated with the teacher's appraisal.

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REGULATION

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Tornillo ISD 071908

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL **EVALUATION OF TEACHERS**

DNA REGULATION

Complaints regarding a teacher appraisal should be addressed in GRIEVANCES

accordance with DGBA(LOCAL).

LAST REVISED July 26, 2017

DATE ISSUED: 07/19/2016

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REGULATION

ADOPTED:

References

For additional information, see the following sources:

- http://tea.texas.gov
- https://teachfortexas.org/
- http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter149/ch149aa.html
- http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter150/ch150aa.html

For additional assistance, please contact the Human Resources Department: 915-765-3050.