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Inbox: STAAR Policy Alert: Option to Defer the 15 Percent Provision (2 of 3)

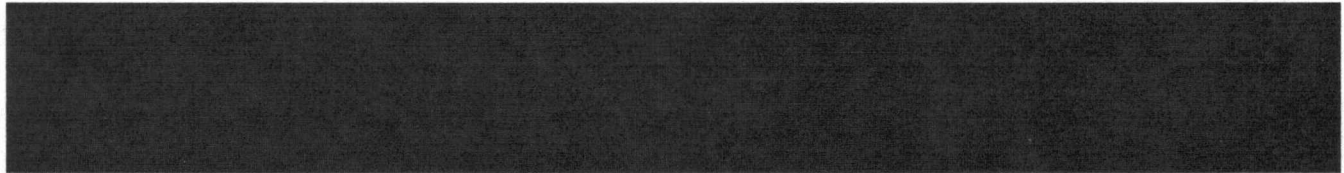
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From: Policy Service <Policy.Service@tasb.org>
To: Policy Service <Policy.Service@tasb.org>
Subject: STAAR Policy Alert: Option to Defer the 15 Percent Provision
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To: District Superintendent and Policy Contact

From: TASB Policy Service

Date: January 4, 2013

STAAR Policy Alert: Option to Defer the 15 Percent Provision

On November 30, 2012, Commissioner of Education Michael L. Williams announced that, for the 2012–13 school year, district implementation of the statutory provision that requires performance on an end-of-course (EOC) assessment to count as 15 percent of a student's final course grade. This is the second year that the statutory requirement has been deferred. Commissioner Robert implemented a similar deferral option for the 2011–12 school year.

Each district will need to decide whether to defer the 15 percent provision. Districts that decide to defer the 15 percent provision only for the 2012–13 school year. At this point, the requirement in Education Code 39.023(c) for districts to have local board policy that an EOC assessment score counts as 15 percent of the final course grade is still in place for the 2013–14 school year. However, a large number of legislators that have indicated a desire to change the current statutory provisions on EOC assessments, a legislative action is likely during the 83rd Legislative Session and could affect whether districts are required to count EOC assessments as 15 percent of the final course grade for future years.

Local Policy Decisions

The impact of Commissioner William's decision on your district's local policies will depend on what action, if any, your board has taken regarding EOC assessments and the 15 percent provision.

• If your district has adopted policy on EOC assessments and the 15 percent provision and does not wish to defer the 15 percent provision or make any other policy changes, no action is required.

• If your district has adopted policy on EOC assessments and decides to defer the 15 percent provision for the 2012–13 school year, the district has several options regarding the policies currently in place. (Keep in mind that although there is no requirement for a statement in policy reflecting that the district will defer the 15 percent provision, some type of board action will be necessary for the current policy provisions will not apply this school year.)

o The district could choose to adopt a resolution suspending the district's policies on the 15 percent provision for the 2012–13 school year. This may affect multiple policies as some districts revised up to three local policies: EI(LOCAL), addressing partial credit for EOC assessment; EIA(LOCAL), addressing grading and retakes for EOC assessments; and EIC(LOCAL), addressing class rank and EOC assessments. The advantage of suspending rather than altering the district's current policies is that the district will not

place for the 2013–14 school year if the law is not changed in the legislative session. A sample resolution is attached.

o Alternatively, the district could choose to delete all local policy on the 15 percent provision in anticipation of potential legislation during the Legislative Session. Again, this may require revisions to multiple policies.

TASB Policy Service will continue to monitor legislative activity on the 15 percent provision and keep you informed if policy change for the 2013–14 school year.

If your district wishes to make changes to any of its policies, please contact your policy consultant at 800–580-7529.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD TO SUSPEND PORTIONS OF [adjust as necessary] (LOCAL), EIA(LOCAL), and EIC(LOCAL)] FOR THE 2012–13 SCHOOL YEAR

WHEREAS, section 39.023(c) of the Texas Education Code requires a school district to adopt a policy that requires a student's end-of-course (EOC) assessment instrument to account for 15 percent of a student's final grade for the course.

WHEREAS, _____SD local policy at [adjust as necessary: EI(LOCAL), EIA(LOCAL), and EIC(LOCAL)] includes provisions for assessments to satisfy this statutory requirement and address other provisions related to how the district will implement this statutory requirement.

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Education has given school districts the ability to defer implementation for the 2012–13 school year statutory provision that requires performance on an EOC assessment to count as 15 percent of a student's final course grade.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of _____SD shall suspend for the remainder of the school year portions of the following codes: *[Adjust codes, margin notes, and text below as appropriate.]*

- EI(LOCAL), at EXCEPTION, addressing partial credit for a course in which an end-of-course assessment is required;
- EIA(LOCAL), at END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENTS, requiring a student's performance on an EOC assessment to count as 15 percent of a student's final grade for the course and addressing other related provisions regarding the 15 percent provision; and
- EIC(LOCAL), at END-OF COURSE ASSESSMENT SCORES, addressing EOC assessments and calculation of class rank.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, _____, by the Board of Trustees.

President

Secretary

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