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TEXAS EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

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**TE<sub>x</sub>ES** | Texas Examinations of Educator Standards

# Preparation Manual



161 Special Education EC–12

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# Chapter 1

**Introduction to the Special Education  
EC–12 Test and Suggestions for Using this  
Test Preparation Manual**



## 1 OVERVIEW

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) has approved Texas educator standards that delineate what the beginning educator should know and be able to do. These standards, which are based on the state-required curriculum for students — the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) — form the basis for the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards® (TExES®) program. This initiative, directed by Texas Education Agency (TEA), will affect all areas of Texas education — from the more than 100 approved Texas Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) to the more than 7,000 Texas school campuses. This standards-based system reflects TEA’s commitment to help align Texas education from kindergarten through college. TEA’s role in this K–16 initiative will ensure that newly certified Texas educators have the essential knowledge and skills to teach the TEKS to the state’s public school students.

This manual is designed to help examinees prepare for the TExES test in this field. Its purpose is to familiarize examinees with the competencies to be tested, test question formats and pertinent study resources. EPP staff may also find this information useful as they help examinees prepare for careers as Texas educators.

### KEY FEATURES OF THE MANUAL

- *List of competencies that will be tested*
- *Strategies for answering multiple-choice questions*
- *Sample test questions and answer key*

If you have any questions after reading this preparation manual or you would like additional information about the TExES tests or the educator standards, please visit the SBEC website at [www.sbec.state.tx.us](http://www.sbec.state.tx.us).

## USING THE TEST FRAMEWORK

The Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES) tests measure the content knowledge required of an entry-level educator in a particular field in Texas public schools. This manual is designed to guide your preparation by helping you become familiar with the material to be covered on the test you are planning to take, identify areas where you feel you may be weak and increase your knowledge in those areas by helping you design a study plan.

**When preparing for this test, you should focus on the competencies and descriptive statements, which delineate the content that is eligible for testing. A portion of the content is represented in the sample questions that are included in this manual. These test questions represent only a sampling of questions. Thus, your test preparation should focus on the competencies and descriptive statements and not simply on the sample questions.**

## ORGANIZATION OF THE TExES TEST FRAMEWORK

The test framework is based on the educator standards for this field.

The content covered by this test is organized into broad areas of content called domains. Each domain covers one or more of the educator standards for this field. Within each domain, the content is further defined by a set of competencies. Each competency is composed of two major parts:

1. the **competency statement**, which broadly defines what an entry-level educator in this field in Texas public schools should know and be able to do, and
2. the **descriptive statements**, which describe in greater detail the knowledge and skills eligible for testing.

The educator standards being assessed within each domain are listed for reference at the beginning of the test framework, which begins on page 12. These are followed by a complete set of the framework's competencies and descriptive statements.

An example of a competency and its accompanying descriptive statements is provided below.

### SAMPLE COMPETENCY

Special Education EC–12

#### COMPETENCY 001

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER UNDERSTANDS AND APPLIES KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS AND NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

## 1 SAMPLE DESCRIPTIVE STATEMENTS

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows characteristics of individuals with different types of disabilities, including individuals with different levels of severity and multiple disabilities across eligibility categories and analyzes the impact of various disabilities on learning and experience.
- B. Knows how the developmental, academic, social, career and functional characteristics of individuals with disabilities relate to levels of support needed and applies knowledge of human development and disabilities to plan and implement appropriate curriculum.
- C. Knows theoretical explanations for behavioral disorders and analyzes the varied characteristics of behavioral disorders and their effect on learning.
- D. Knows the different ways that students with and without disabilities learn.
- E. Applies knowledge of human development and the effects of various types of disabilities on developmental processes in order to identify the needs of individuals with and without disabilities.
- F. Understands the effects of cultural and environmental influences (e.g., linguistic characteristics, socioeconomic issues, abuse/neglect, substance abuse) on the child and family.
- G. Understands normal, delayed and disordered communication patterns, including nonsymbolic communication, and the impact of language development on the academic and social skills of individuals with disabilities.
- H. Knows aspects of medical conditions affecting individuals with disabilities, including the effects of various medications on behavior and functioning and the implications of medical complications for student support needs (e.g., seizure management, tube feeding, catheterization, cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR]).
- I. Understands ways in which physical disabilities and health impairments relate to development and behavior, and knows the etiologies and effects of sensory disabilities and other conditions affecting individuals with disabilities.



### STUDYING FOR THE TExES TEST

The following steps may be helpful in preparing for the TExES test.

1. Identify the information the test will cover by reading through the test competencies (see Chapter 3). Within each domain of this TExES test, each competency will receive approximately equal coverage.
2. Read each competency with its descriptive statements in order to get a more specific idea of the knowledge you will be required to demonstrate on the test. You may wish to use this review of the competencies to set priorities for your study time.
3. Review the “Preparation Resources” section of this guide (Appendix B) for possible resources to consult. Also, compile key materials from your preparation coursework that are aligned with the competencies.
4. Study this manual for approaches to taking the TExES test.
5. When using resources, concentrate on the key skills and important abilities that are discussed in the competencies and descriptive statements.
6. Use the study plan document (Appendix A of this guide) to help you plan your study.

**NOTE: This preparation manual is the only TExES test study material endorsed by Texas Education Agency (TEA) for this field. Other preparation materials may not accurately reflect the content of the test or the policies and procedures of the TExES program.**



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# Chapter 2

## Background Information on the TExES Testing Program



## **THE TExES TESTS FOR TEXAS TEACHERS**

As required by the Texas Education Code §21.048, successful performance on educator certification examinations is required for the issuance of a Texas educator certificate. Each TExES test is a criterion-referenced examination designed to measure the knowledge and skills delineated in the corresponding TExES test framework. Each test framework is based on standards that were developed by Texas educators and other education stakeholders.

Each TExES test is designed to measure the requisite knowledge and skills that an entry-level educator in this field in Texas public schools must possess. The tests include both individual (stand-alone) test questions and questions that are arranged in clustered sets based on real-world situations faced by educators.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TExES TESTS**

Committees of Texas educators and members of the community guide the development of the new TExES tests by participating in each stage of the test development process. These working committees are composed of Texas educators from public and charter schools, university and EPP faculty, education service center staff, representatives from professional educator organizations, content experts and members of the business community. The committees are balanced in terms of position, affiliation, years of experience, ethnicity, gender and geographical location. The committee membership is rotated during the development process so that numerous Texas stakeholders may be actively involved. The steps in the process to develop the TExES tests are described below.

1. **Develop Standards.** Committees are established to recommend what the beginning educator should know and be able to do. Using the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as the focal point, draft standards are prepared to define the knowledge and skills required of the beginning educator.
2. **Review Standards.** Committees review and revise the draft standards. The revised draft standards are then placed on the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) website for public review and comment. These comments are used to prepare a final draft of the standards that will be presented to the SBEC Board for discussion, the State Board of Education (SBOE) for review and comment and the SBEC Board for approval. Standards not based specifically on the TEKS, such as those for librarians and counselors, are proposed as rule by the SBEC Board; sent to the SBOE for its 90-day review; and, if not rejected by the SBOE, adopted by the SBEC Board.
3. **Develop Test Frameworks.** Committees review and revise draft test frameworks that are based on the standards. These frameworks outline the specific competencies to be measured on the new TExES tests. Draft frameworks are not finalized until after the standards are approved and the job analysis/content validation survey (see #4) is complete.
4. **Conduct Job Analysis/Content Validation Surveys.** A representative sample of Texas educators who practice in or prepare individuals for each of the fields for which an educator certificate has been proposed are surveyed to determine the relative job importance of each competency outlined in the test framework for that content area. Frameworks are revised as needed following an analysis of the survey responses.

5. **Develop and Review New Test Questions.** The test contractor develops draft questions that are designed to measure the competencies described in the test framework. Committees review the newly developed test questions that have been written to reflect the competencies in the new test frameworks. Committee members scrutinize the draft questions for appropriateness of content and difficulty; clarity; match to the competencies; and potential ethnic, gender and regional bias.
6. **Conduct Pilot Test of New Test Questions.** All of the newly developed test questions that have been deemed acceptable by the question review committees are then administered to an appropriate sample of candidates for certification.
7. **Review Pilot Test Data.** Pilot test results are reviewed to ensure that the test questions are valid, reliable and free from bias.
8. **Administer TExES Tests.** New TExES tests are constructed to reflect the competencies, and the tests are administered to candidates for certification.
9. **Set Passing Standard.** A Standard Setting Committee convenes to review performance data from the initial administration of each new TExES test and to recommend a final passing standard for that test. The SBEC Board considers this recommendation as it establishes a passing score on the test.

## TAKING THE TExES TEST AND RECEIVING SCORES

Please refer to the current TExES *Registration Bulletin* or the ETS TExES website at **[www.texas.ets.org](http://www.texas.ets.org)** for information on test dates, test centers, fees, registration procedures and program policies.

Your score report will be available to you in your testing account on the ETS TExES online registration system by 5 p.m. Central time on the score reporting date indicated in the *Registration Bulletin*. The report will indicate whether you have passed the test and will include:

- A total test scaled score. Scaled scores are reported to allow for the comparison of scores on the same content-area test taken on different test administration dates. The total scaled score is not the percentage of questions answered correctly and is not determined by averaging the number of questions answered correctly in each domain.
  - For all TExES tests, the score scale is 100–300 with a scaled score of 240 as the minimum passing score. This score represents the minimum level of competency required to be an entry-level educator in this field in Texas public schools.
- Your performance in the major content domains of the test and in the specific content competencies of the test.
  - This information may be useful in identifying strengths and weaknesses in your content preparation and can be used for further study or for preparing to retake the test. However, it is important to use caution when interpreting scores reported by domain and competency as these scores are typically based on a smaller number of items than the total score and therefore may not be as reliable as the total score.
- A link to information to help you understand the score scale and interpret your results.

A score report will not be available to you if you are absent or choose to cancel your score.

For more information about scores or to access scores online, go to **[www.texas.ets.org](http://www.texas.ets.org)**.

## EDUCATOR STANDARDS

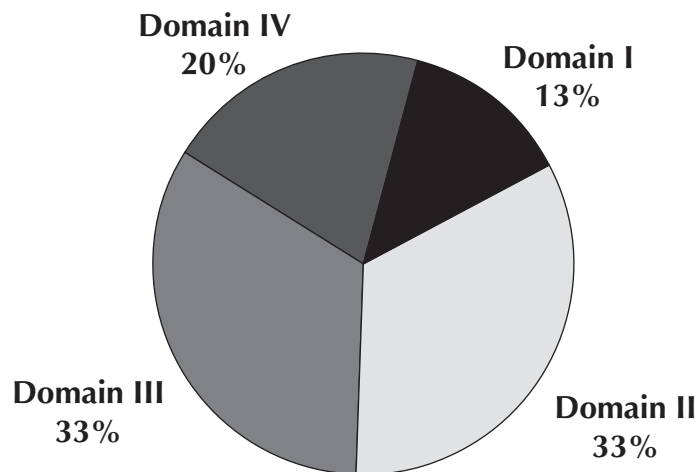
Complete, approved educator standards are posted on the SBEC website at **[www.sbec.state.tx.us](http://www.sbec.state.tx.us)**.

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# Chapter 3

## Study Topics



**TEST FRAMEWORK FOR FIELD 161: SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12****THE DOMAINS**

- **Domain I: Understanding Individuals with Disabilities and Evaluating Their Needs**  
Standards Assessed: IV, V
- **Domain II: Promoting Student Learning and Development**  
Standards Assessed: VI, VII, VIII, IX, X
- **Domain III: Promoting Student Achievement in English Language Arts and Reading and in Mathematics**  
Standards Assessed: XI, XII
- **Domain IV: Foundations and Professional Roles and Responsibilities**  
Standards Assessed: I, II, III

**TOTAL TEST BREAKDOWN**

- Exam is offered as a paper-based or computer-administered test
- 135 Multiple-Choice Questions (120 Scored Questions\*)

\*Your final scaled score will be based only on scored questions.



## THE STANDARDS

### DOMAIN I — UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND EVALUATING THEIR NEEDS (approximately 13% of the test)

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD IV:

The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of the characteristics and needs of individuals with disabilities.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD V:

The special education teacher understands formal and informal assessment procedures and knows how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions.

### DOMAIN II — PROMOTING STUDENT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (approximately 33% of the test)

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD VI:

The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of procedures for planning instruction and managing the teaching and learning environment.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD VII:

The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of issues and procedures for teaching appropriate student behavior and social skills.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD VIII:

The special education teacher understands assistive technology as defined by state and federal regulations.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD IX:

The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of transition issues and procedures across the life span.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD X:

The special education teacher promotes students' academic performance in all content areas by facilitating their achievement in a variety of settings and situations.

### DOMAIN III — PROMOTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING AND IN MATHEMATICS (approximately 33% of the test)

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD XI:

The special education teacher promotes students' performance in English language arts and reading.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION EC–12 STANDARD XII:

The special education teacher promotes students' performance in mathematics.

### **DOMAIN IV — FOUNDATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** (approximately 20% of the test)

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION EC-12 STANDARD I:**

The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of the philosophical, historical and legal foundations of special education.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION EC-12 STANDARD II:**

The special education teacher applies knowledge of professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION EC-12 STANDARD III:**

The special education teacher knows how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings.

### **COMPETENCIES**

### **DOMAIN I — UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND EVALUATING THEIR NEEDS**

#### **COMPETENCY 001**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER UNDERSTANDS AND APPLIES KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS AND NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows characteristics of individuals with different types of disabilities, including individuals with different levels of severity and multiple disabilities across eligibility categories, and analyzes the impact of various disabilities on learning and experience.
- B. Knows how the developmental, academic, social, career and functional characteristics of individuals with disabilities relate to levels of support needed and applies knowledge of human development and disabilities to plan and implement appropriate curriculum.
- C. Knows theoretical explanations for behavioral disorders and analyzes the varied characteristics of behavioral disorders and their effect on learning.
- D. Knows the different ways that students with and without disabilities learn.
- E. Applies knowledge of human development and the effects of various types of disabilities on developmental processes in order to identify the needs of individuals with and without disabilities.
- F. Understands the effects of cultural and environmental influences (e.g., linguistic characteristics, socioeconomic issues, abuse/neglect, substance abuse) on the child and family.

- G. Understands normal, delayed and disordered communication patterns, including nonsymbolic communication, and the impact of language development on the academic and social skills of individuals with disabilities.
- H. Knows aspects of medical conditions affecting individuals with disabilities, including the effects of various medications on behavior and functioning and the implications of medical complications for student support needs (e.g., seizure management, tube feeding, catheterization, cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR]).
- I. Understands ways in which physical disabilities and health impairments relate to development and behavior, and knows the etiologies and effects of sensory disabilities and other conditions affecting individuals with disabilities.

**COMPETENCY 002**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER UNDERSTANDS FORMAL AND INFORMAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND KNOWS HOW TO EVALUATE STUDENT COMPETENCIES TO MAKE INSTRUCTIONAL DECISIONS.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Applies knowledge of basic terminology used in assessment and evaluation, the uses and limitations of various types of instruments and techniques and methods for monitoring the progress of individuals with disabilities.
- B. Understands ethical concerns related to assessment and evaluation, including legal provisions, regulations and guidelines regarding unbiased evaluation and the use of psychometric instruments and instructional assessment measures with individuals with disabilities.
- C. Identifies appropriate evaluation strategies for individual students with diverse characteristics and needs (e.g., related to culture, language, personal beliefs, nature, severity of disabilities).
- D. Applies knowledge of procedures for screening, prereferral intervention, referral and determining eligibility, including criteria used to determine eligibility.
- E. Knows how to gather background information regarding academic, medical and family history, collaborate with parents/guardians and with other professionals to conduct assessments and evaluations, document ongoing student assessment and maintain accurate records.
- F. Knows how to interpret and apply information from formal and informal assessment and evaluation instruments and procedures, including interpreting various types of scores (e.g., standard scores, percentile ranks, age/grade equivalents).
- G. Knows how to communicate assessment and evaluation results appropriately to individuals with disabilities, parents/guardians, administrators and other professionals.

- H. Understands the reciprocal nature of assessment and instruction; applies skills for developing individualized assessment strategies to evaluate the results of instruction; and knows how to use assessment and evaluation results to design, monitor and modify instruction for individuals with disabilities.
- I. Knows how to design and use ecological assessments, portfolio assessments, task analyses and functional assessments (e.g., behavioral, social, communication) to accommodate the unique abilities and needs of individuals with disabilities.
- J. Applies skills for using assessment and evaluation information from various sources (e.g., teachers, other professionals, parents/guardians, individuals with disabilities) to make instructional decisions, plan effective programs for individuals with disabilities, including those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and identify supports needed for integration into various program placements.

## DOMAIN II — PROMOTING STUDENT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### COMPETENCY 003

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER UNDERSTANDS AND APPLIES KNOWLEDGE OF PROCEDURES FOR PLANNING INSTRUCTION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows how to select, develop and apply instructional content, materials, resources and strategies that are responsive to cultural and other factors (e.g., language, religion, gender, personal beliefs, nature and severity of disability).
- B. Knows curricula for developing cognitive, academic, social, language, affective, motor, functional, transition and career life skills for individuals with disabilities.
- C. Knows the role of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in developing Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities and applies skills for sequencing, implementing and evaluating individual learning objectives.
- D. Applies procedures for developing and using Individual Education Program (IEP) objectives to plan instruction for individuals with disabilities.
- E. Prepares, adapts and organizes materials to implement developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate lesson plans based on Individual Education Program (IEP) objectives for individuals with disabilities.
- F. Applies knowledge of issues, resources and appropriate strategies for teaching students with disabilities in specialized settings (e.g., alternative schools, special centers, hospitals, residential facilities), including transitions to and from school- and community-based settings.
- G. Knows how to collaborate with other professionals to interpret and use sensory, mobility, reflex and perceptual information to create appropriate learning plans (e.g., sensory stimulation, physical positioning, lifting).

- H. Knows how to collaborate with other professionals to plan, adapt and implement effective instruction in the least restrictive setting for individuals with disabilities.
- I. Knows how the general or special classroom and other learning environments (e.g., home, job site, cafeteria, transportation, community) impact student learning and behavior and applies strategies for planning educational environments that promote students' learning, active participation, communication, self-advocacy, increased independence and generalization of skills.
- J. Identifies ways in which technology can assist in planning and managing instruction for individuals with disabilities.
- K. Knows how to use local, state and federal resources to assist in programming for individuals with disabilities.

**COMPETENCY 004**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER UNDERSTANDS AND APPLIES KNOWLEDGE OF PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING THE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE USE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Applies procedures for ensuring a safe, positive and supportive learning environment in which diversities are valued and knows how to address common environmental and personal barriers that hinder accessibility for and acceptance of individuals with disabilities.
- B. Knows how to use instructional time efficiently and effectively for individuals with disabilities.
- C. Knows how to design, structure and manage daily routines, including transition time, for students in a variety of educational settings and applies procedures for monitoring behavior changes across activities and settings.
- D. Applies knowledge of basic classroom management theories, methods and techniques for individuals with disabilities, research-based best practices for effective management of teaching and learning and management procedures that are appropriate to individual needs.
- E. Identifies ways in which technology can assist in managing the teaching and learning environment to meet the needs of individual students.
- F. Knows various types of assistive technologies, devices, services and resources and their role in facilitating students' educational achievement, communication, positioning, mobility and active participation in educational activities and routines.
- G. Knows how to make informed decisions about types and levels of assistive technologies, devices and services for students with various needs, collect and analyze information about a student's environment and curriculum to identify and monitor assistive technology needs and support the use of assistive technologies, devices and services.

- H. Applies procedures for participating in the selection and implementation of assistive technologies, devices and services for students with various needs.
- I. Applies procedures for coordinating activities of related services personnel and directing the activities of paraprofessionals, aides, volunteers and peer tutors.
- J. Under the direction of related services personnel, applies knowledge of appropriate body mechanics to ensure student and teacher safety in transfer, lifting, positioning and seating.

**3****COMPETENCY 005**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER KNOWS HOW TO PROMOTE STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE IN ALL CONTENT AREAS BY FACILITATING THEIR ACHIEVEMENT IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS AND SITUATIONS.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Analyzes cultural factors and perspectives that affect relationships among students, parents/guardians, schools and communities with regard to providing instruction for individuals with disabilities.
- B. Knows how to serve as a resource person for families, general education teachers, administrators and other personnel in recognizing the characteristics of and meeting the needs of individuals with learning differences in the general education classroom.
- C. Knows how to use assessment results to design, monitor and adapt instruction to enhance student learning and applies skills for selecting, adapting and using effective, research-based instructional strategies, practices and materials that are developmentally appropriate and age appropriate and that meet individual needs.
- D. Knows instructional, compensatory, enrichment and remedial methods, techniques and curriculum materials and applies strategies for modifying instruction based on the differing learning styles and needs of students.
- E. Applies knowledge of techniques for motivating students, including the effects of high teacher expectations on student motivation.
- F. Knows life-skills and self-help curricula and strategies for providing students with life-skills instruction relevant to independent or assisted living and employment.
- G. Knows how to select and use appropriate technologies to accomplish instructional objectives and applies skills for appropriately integrating technology into the instructional process.
- H. Applies strategies for integrating affective, social and career/vocational skills with academic curricula, teaching students with disabilities to solve problems and use other cognitive strategies to meet their individual needs and facilitating maintenance and generalization of skills across learning environments.

- I. Knows how to adapt lessons to maximize the physical abilities of individuals with specialized needs.
- J. Knows how to integrate related services into all types of educational settings.
- K. Knows how to provide community-referenced and community-based instruction as appropriate.
- L. Knows how to design and implement instruction in independent living skills, vocational skills and career education for students with physical and health disabilities and how to promote the use of medical self-management procedures for students with specialized health care needs.

**COMPETENCY 006**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER UNDERSTANDS AND APPLIES KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUES AND PROCEDURES FOR TEACHING APPROPRIATE STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL SKILLS.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Applies knowledge of how culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds of students impact behavior management and social skills instruction.
- B. Recognizes ways in which teacher attitudes and behaviors and personal cultural biases influence the behavior of students.
- C. Applies knowledge of ethics, laws, rules and procedural safeguards related to planning and implementing behavior management and discipline for individuals with and without disabilities.
- D. Knows theories relating to student problem behavior (e.g., noncompliance, self-stimulation, self-injury, withdrawal, aggression, defiance) and the theoretical basis of behavior management techniques (e.g., positive behavioral support, reinforcement, proactive strategies, reductive strategies that decrease negative behaviors).
- E. Develops and/or selects social skills and behavioral curricula and strategies that promote socially appropriate behavior and prepares individuals to live cooperatively and productively in society.
- F. Incorporates social skills instruction across settings and curricula and knows how to design, implement and evaluate instructional programs that enhance an individual's social participation in family, school and community activities.
- G. Identifies realistic expectations for personal and social behavior in various settings and applies procedures for increasing an individual's self-awareness, self-control, self-management, self-reliance and self-confidence.
- H. Knows strategies for modifying learning environments (e.g., schedule, physical and instructional arrangements) to promote appropriate behaviors.



- I. Knows the impact of language on an individual's behavior and learning and knows how the communication skills of nonspeaking/nonverbal individuals affect their behavior.
- J. Understands functional behavior assessments and evaluations and their role in developing behavior intervention plans.
- K. Knows strategies for crisis prevention, intervention and postvention; applies procedures for developing, implementing and evaluating individual behavior crisis-management plans in educational settings; and implements the least intensive intervention consistent with individual needs.

**COMPETENCY 007**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER UNDERSTANDS AND APPLIES KNOWLEDGE OF TRANSITION ISSUES AND PROCEDURES ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows how to plan, facilitate and implement transition activities as documented in Individualized Family Services Plans (IFSPs) and Individual Education Programs (IEPs).
- B. Knows how to plan for and link students' current and previous developmental and learning experiences, including teaching strategies, with those of subsequent settings.
- C. Knows programs and services available at various levels and how to assist students and families in planning for transition.
- D. Knows how to teach students skills for coping with and managing transitions.
- E. Knows sources of unique services, networks and organizations for individuals with disabilities, including career, vocational and transition support.
- F. Applies knowledge of procedures and supports needed to facilitate transitions across programs and placements.
- G. Knows how to collaborate with the student, the family and others to design and implement transition plans that meet identified student needs and ensure successful transitions.
- H. Applies skills for communicating with families about issues related to transition and strategies for helping their children make successful transitions.



**DOMAIN III — PROMOTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING AND IN MATHEMATICS****COMPETENCY 008**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PROMOTES STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Applies knowledge of developmental processes associated with communication systems (e.g., listening, speaking, writing), including emergent and preliteracy skills, and knows how to provide a variety of opportunities for students with disabilities to learn communication skills.
- B. Knows how to use a variety of assessment practices and procedures to plan and implement instruction in English language arts and reading that is responsive to the strengths and needs of individuals with disabilities.
- C. Knows the nature and stages of literacy development, and various contexts and methods for promoting students' literacy development.
- D. Applies knowledge of phonological and phonemic awareness and strategies for promoting the phonological and phonemic awareness of students with disabilities.
- E. Applies knowledge of the alphabetic principle and word analysis skills (e.g., decoding, structural analysis, sight word vocabulary) and knows how to provide students with disabilities with systematic instruction that promotes their ability to apply the alphabetic principle and word analysis and decoding skills.
- F. Applies knowledge of reading fluency and the relationship between reading fluency and reading comprehension and knows how to provide students with disabilities with systematic instruction that promotes their reading fluency.
- G. Knows the importance of comprehension in reading and knows how to provide students with disabilities with instruction in the use of skills and strategies (e.g., critical/creative thinking) to promote their reading comprehension.
- H. Knows how to provide students with disabilities with systematic instruction to develop skills in writing conventions and competence in written communication.
- I. Knows the relationship between learning and effective study, critical-thinking and inquiry skills and knows how to use various methods and strategies to teach students with disabilities to apply study, critical-thinking and inquiry skills.
- J. Knows skills for interpreting, analyzing, evaluating and providing visual images and messages and knows how to provide systematic instruction that helps students with disabilities learn to interpret, analyze, evaluate and create visual images and messages in various media and technologies.

**COMPETENCY 009**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PROMOTES STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN MATHEMATICS.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows how to use a variety of assessment methods to monitor the mathematical understanding of students with disabilities and adapt mathematics instruction to address individual strengths and needs.
- B. Knows how to provide mathematics instruction that is based on principles of children's learning and development and that reflects recognition of common misconceptions and sources of error in mathematics.
- C. Knows how individuals learn and develop mathematical skills, procedures and concepts.
- D. Understands numbers, number systems and their structure, operations and algorithms and quantitative reasoning and uses various instructional strategies and resources, including technology, to help students with disabilities understand and apply related content and skills.
- E. Understands patterns, relations, functions and algebraic reasoning and analysis and uses various instructional strategies and resources, including technology, to help students with disabilities understand and apply related content and skills.
- F. Understands geometry, spatial reasoning and measurement concepts and principles, and uses various instructional strategies and resources, including technology, to help students with disabilities understand and apply related content and skills.
- G. Understands principles and applications of probability and statistics and uses various instructional strategies and resources, including technology, to help students with disabilities understand and apply related content and skills.
- H. Applies knowledge of methods, strategies and resources for teaching students with disabilities to engage in mathematical reasoning and problem solving, apply mathematics in a variety of contexts and communicate mathematically.

**DOMAIN IV — FOUNDATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES****COMPETENCY 010**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER UNDERSTANDS THE PHILOSOPHICAL, HISTORICAL AND LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows the historical foundations of special education, major contributors to the literature, major legislation relevant to knowledge and practice in the education of individuals with disabilities and current issues and trends in special education.

- B. Applies knowledge of models, theories and philosophies that provide the basis for special education practice.
- C. Applies current educational terminology and definitions regarding individuals with disabilities, including professionally accepted classification systems and current incidence and prevalence figures.
- D. Analyzes issues relating to definition and identification procedures for individuals with disabilities, including individuals from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- E. Understands factors that influence the overrepresentation of culturally and/or linguistically diverse students in programs for individuals with disabilities.
- F. Recognizes various perspectives (e.g., medical, psychological, behavioral, educational) regarding definitions and etiologies of disabilities.
- G. Understands cultural variations in beliefs, traditions and values and their effects on the relationships among child, family and school.
- H. Applies knowledge of the continuum of placement and services for individuals with disabilities.

**COMPETENCY 011**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER APPLIES KNOWLEDGE OF PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND ADHERES TO LEGAL AND ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROFESSION.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows how to exercise objective professional judgment, maintain a high level of competence and integrity in professional practice and participate in professional activities and organizations that may benefit individuals with disabilities, their parents/guardians and/or colleagues.
- B. Knows consumer and professional organizations, publications and journals relevant to individuals with disabilities and knows how to access information on cognitive, communicative, physical, cultural, social and emotional characteristics and needs of individuals with disabilities.
- C. Applies skills for participating effectively in identifying, diagnosing, placing and developing programming for students with disabilities, including using advocacy skills and competencies to support the education of students in least restrictive environments.
- D. Applies knowledge of assurances and due process rights related to assessment, eligibility and placement and knows the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians, students, teachers, other professionals and schools.
- E. Knows legal and ethical issues (e.g., liability) relevant to working with individuals with disabilities and knows how to conduct instructional and other professional activities consistent with the requirements of laws, rules and regulations and local district policies and procedures, including complying with local, state and federal monitoring and evaluation requirements.

- F. Knows the roles of and relationships among federal, state and local entities with regard to the regulation and provision of special education and related services, including specialized health care services.
- G. Applies knowledge of practices that conform to standards and policies of the profession, including the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Code of Ethics.
- H. Demonstrates awareness of personal cultural biases and differences that may affect one's teaching and knows how to demonstrate respect for the culture, gender and personal beliefs of individual students.
- I. Applies procedures for safeguarding confidentiality with regard to students with disabilities (e.g., by maintaining the confidentiality of electronic correspondence and records, ensuring the confidentiality of conversations) and recognizes the importance of respecting students' privacy.
- J. Knows laws, regulations and policies related to the provision of specialized health care in the educational setting.

**COMPETENCY 012**

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER KNOWS HOW TO COMMUNICATE AND COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY IN A VARIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SETTINGS.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Understands the collaborative roles of students, parents/guardians, teachers and other school and community personnel in planning and implementing an individualized program and applies effective strategies for working collaboratively in various contexts.
- B. Applies knowledge of factors that promote effective communication and collaboration with students, parents/guardians, teachers, paraprofessionals and other school and community personnel.
- C. Knows how to foster respectful and beneficial relationships between families and professionals in the school and community.
- D. Knows typical concerns of families of individuals with disabilities and appropriate strategies to support families in dealing with these concerns.
- E. Applies knowledge of strategies for encouraging and assisting parents/guardians in their role as active participants in their children's education and applies procedures for planning and conducting collaborative conferences with parents/guardians.
- F. Applies knowledge of effective communication in various professional contexts and knows ethical practices for confidential communication regarding individuals with disabilities.
- G. Knows the types of information generally available from parents/guardians, school officials, the legal system and community service agencies.

- H. Applies knowledge of the collaborative and consultative roles of special education teachers, paraprofessionals and other school personnel in integrating individuals with disabilities into general educational settings.
- I. Knows how to collaborate with teachers in the general educational setting and other school and community personnel to integrate individuals with disabilities into various learning environments.
- J. Knows how to serve as a resource person for families, general education teachers, administrators and other school personnel regarding the characteristics and needs of individuals with disabilities.



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# Chapter 4

## Succeeding on Multiple-Choice Questions



## APPROACHES TO ANSWERING MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

The purpose of this section is to describe multiple-choice question formats that you will see on the Special Education EC–12 test and to suggest possible ways to approach thinking about and answering the multiple-choice questions. However, these approaches are not intended to replace familiar test-taking strategies with which you are already comfortable and that work for you.

The Special Education EC–12 test is designed to include a total of 135 multiple-choice questions, out of which 120 are scored. Your final scaled score will be based only on scored questions. The questions that are not scored are being pilot tested in order to collect information about how these questions will perform under actual testing conditions. These questions are not identified on the test.

**4**

All multiple-choice questions on this test are designed to assess your knowledge of the content described in the test framework. The multiple-choice questions assess your ability to recall factual information and to think critically about the information, analyze it, consider it carefully, compare it with other knowledge you have or make a judgment about it.

When you are ready to respond to a multiple-choice question, you must choose one of four answer options labeled A, B, C and D. Leave no questions unanswered. Nothing is subtracted from your score if you answer a question incorrectly. Questions for which you mark no answer or more than one answer are not counted in scoring. Your score will be determined by the number of questions for which you select the best answer.

**Calculators.** Scientific calculators will be provided at the test center. See the *TExES Registration Bulletin* for the brand and model of the calculator that will be available.

**Definitions:** The following terms may be referred to throughout the test. For the purpose of the test, they are defined as follows.

- Paraprofessional: A teacher assistant, teacher aide or paraeducator
- Parent: A biological parent, legal guardian, surrogate, natural, adoptive or foster parent

## QUESTION FORMATS

You may see the following types of multiple-choice questions on the test.

- Single Questions
- Questions with Stimulus Materials
- Clustered Questions

On the following pages, you will find descriptions of these commonly used question formats, along with suggested approaches for responding to each type of question. In the actual testing situation, if you are taking the paper-based version of the test, you may mark the test questions and/or write in the margins of your test booklet. **Your final response must be indicated on the answer sheet provided.** If you are taking the test via computer, you may write on the scratch paper provided at the testing center. **Your final response must be selected on the computer.**



**SINGLE QUESTIONS**

In the single-question format, a problem is presented as a direct question or an incomplete statement, and four answer options appear below the question. The following three questions are examples of this type. The first question tests knowledge of Special Education EC–12 Competency 007: *The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of transition issues and procedures across the life span.*

**EXAMPLE 1**

The most important reason for involving a student in the creation of goals for transition from high school is that transition goals should reflect

- A. the student’s independent judgment of what is best for him- or herself.
- B. the plans and values of the student’s family.
- C. the realities of the student’s social and economic circumstances.
- D. the student’s own aspirations and interests.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH**

Read the question carefully and critically. Think about what it is asking and the situation it is describing. Eliminate any obviously wrong answers, select the correct answer choice and mark your answer.

As you read this question, think about the process of transition planning for students with disabilities. The question requires an analysis of that planning process for a high school student and asks for the most important reason for having a student in this age range involved in the formal planning for the transition to adult life. Now look at the response options and consider which of them describes the most important reason for the student’s participation in the process.

Option A suggests that a student should be involved in the transition planning process primarily to provide his or her independent judgment of what is best for him- or herself. While a student with a disability may have strong feelings about what would be best for him- or herself, that sense may or may not be accurate or complete. Secondly, transition planning is designed to be a collaborative process. The independent judgment of any individual must be incorporated with other views and other sources of information in order to create an effective transition plan. Option A can therefore be eliminated as the best response to this item.

Option B suggests that having knowledge of the plans and values of the student’s family would be especially helpful for developing the transition plan for a student with a disability. The purpose of the transition plan is to help a student move from school into adult life, and that student should be the focus of the planning process. In addition, a student is unlikely to have the most accurate information about the plans of his or her family. Thus, option B would not be the most important reason for having a student involved in the transition planning process.

Option C suggests that the most important reason for a student with disabilities to participate in the transition planning process would be to help the people involved in transition planning recognize the realities of the student's social and economic circumstances. It is questionable whether these factors would have any legitimate role in the process of setting goals for a student's transition plan. In addition, a student might not be the best source for this type of information about his or her family. Therefore, option C would not be the most important reason for having students involved in the transition planning process.

Option D suggests that having knowledge of the student's aspirations and interests would be useful for transition planning. A student would be the best source of this type of information. The more a student can express his or her own goals and have them considered in transition planning, the more likely it will be that the student will be invested in the transition process. Any transition plan is more effective when the student involved has a sense of ownership. Thus, option D, knowledge of the student's aspirations and interests, would be the most important reason for the student to be involved in transition planning.

Of the alternatives offered, only learning the student's own aspirations and interests could be considered the most important reason for a student's involvement in the transition planning process. Therefore, **the correct response is option D.**

### EXAMPLE 2

The following question tests knowledge of Special Education EC–12 Competency 008: *The special education teacher promotes students' performance in English language arts and reading.*

Ms. Henderson, a special education teacher, co-teaches a middle school language arts class. The class is doing a unit on media literacy, and Ms. Henderson is helping a small group of students examine the images and messages in a TV commercial aimed at their age group. Which of the following discussion questions would best promote students' critical thinking with regard to techniques of commercial advertising?

- A. What type of person do you think created this commercial?
- B. How much money do you think was spent to develop and produce this commercial?
- C. Why do you think advertising is such a big business in a modern economy?
- D. What features of this commercial make the product seem appealing to you?

**SUGGESTED APPROACH**

Read the question carefully and critically. Think about what it is asking and the situation it is describing. Eliminate any obviously wrong answers, select the correct answer choice and mark your answer.

In this situation, a special education teacher is working with a small group of students in a middle school language arts class as they study the media. The question asks how that teacher can best promote the students' critical thinking with regard to commercial advertising techniques. Now look at the response options and consider which of them would be the most effective discussion question for the special education teacher to ask for this purpose.

The question presented in option A is *What type of person do you think created this commercial?* This is a question that is only loosely related to the topic being discussed. It requires students to draw conclusions based on very little information and it is not likely to prompt them to think critically about advertising. Therefore, the question in option A would not be the best way to promote students' critical thinking with regard to techniques of commercial advertising.

The question presented in option B is *How much money do you think was spent to develop and produce this commercial?* This question focuses on financial issues that are not directly related to the understanding of the advertising techniques that are used to appeal to students in this age group. It also asks middle school students for responses that would be based on information that is beyond their knowledge and experience. Option B can therefore be eliminated as the best response to this item.

The question presented in option C is *Why do you think advertising is such a big business in a modern economy?* A discussion of this question would involve broad economic concepts more than any topics that are relevant to the development of media literacy. If the students were knowledgeable about the business principles that relate to advertising, they would still be engaging in a discussion that addressed content outside of the scope of the instruction described in the item. Therefore, the question in option C would not be an appropriate question for the teacher to ask in this situation.

The question presented in option D is *What features of this commercial make the product seem appealing to you?* The question is focused on the content of the commercial, and it would be relevant to a discussion of the type of advertising that has been created to reach these students' age group. It is also an open-ended question that requires students to engage in critical thinking to provide an answer that is more complex than a simple "yes" or "no." Therefore, **option D is the best response to this item.**

Of the alternatives offered, only an open-ended question that asks students to evaluate techniques used in commercial advertising would best promote their critical thinking. Therefore, **the correct response is option D.**

## QUESTIONS WITH STIMULUS MATERIAL

Some questions on this test are preceded by stimulus material that relates to the question. Some types of stimulus material included on the test are reading passages, graphics, tables or a combination of these. In such cases, you will generally be given information followed by an event to analyze, a problem to solve or a decision to make.

You can use several different approaches to respond to these types of questions. Some commonly used strategies are listed below.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Strategy 1</b> | Skim the stimulus material to understand its purpose, its arrangement and/or its content. Then read the question and refer again to the stimulus material to verify the correct answer.   |
| <b>Strategy 2</b> | Read the question <i>before</i> considering the stimulus material. The content of the question will help you identify the purpose of the stimulus material and locate the information you need to respond to the question.  |
| <b>Strategy 3</b> | Use a combination of both strategies; apply the “read the stimulus first” strategy with shorter, more familiar stimuli and the “read the question first” strategy with longer, more complex, or less familiar stimuli. You can experiment with the sample questions in this manual and then use the strategy with which you are most comfortable when you take the actual test. |

Whether you read the stimulus before or after you read the question, you should read it carefully and critically. If you are taking a paper-based test, you may want to underline its important points to help you answer the question.

As you consider questions set in educational contexts, try to enter into the identified teacher’s frame of mind and use that teacher’s point of view to answer the questions that accompany the stimulus. Be sure to consider the questions in terms of only the information provided in the stimulus — not in terms of your own class experiences or individual students you may have known.

**EXAMPLE 1**

First read the stimulus (excerpts from case study information regarding an elementary student who has been diagnosed with Asperger syndrome).

**Read the information below about Walter, an elementary student who has been diagnosed with Asperger syndrome; then answer the question that follows.**

**Excerpt from Psychological Evaluation****Age: 9 years, 3 months****Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement (WJ III ACH)**

Subtest	Standard Score
Broad Reading	93
Reading Comprehension	93
Broad Written Language	82
Broad Math	108
Listening Comprehension	106

**Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children — Fourth Edition (WISC-IV)**

	Standard Score
Verbal Comprehension Index	96
Perceptual Reasoning Index	121
Working Memory Index	104
Processing Speed Index	115
Full Scale IQ	111

**Excerpt from Interview with Walter's Teacher**

Walter has great difficulty interacting with others. He has strong receptive language skills, but he has difficulty expressing himself in writing and in speaking. He uses a computer for writing. Walter is fascinated with numbers. Sometimes it is difficult to get him to do anything but math in the classroom. He also has great difficulty attending to activities and with organizational skills.

**Excerpt from Walter's Current IEP**

Walter should be placed in the general classroom full time.

Now you are prepared to address the question associated with this stimulus. The question measures Competency 002: *The special education teacher understands formal and informal assessment and evaluation procedures and knows how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions.*

Based on the information in this report, which of the following would best help Walter to succeed in the general classroom?

- A. Weekly meetings with a school social worker
- B. A highly structured classroom environment
- C. Daily tutoring in a resource room
- D. A behavior intervention plan

### ***SUGGESTED APPROACH***

Consider carefully the information presented in the stimulus regarding the student's strengths and needs; then read the question. Now look at the response options to consider which action or activity would best support the student in the general classroom.

Option A suggests that regular meetings with a school social worker would best help the student succeed in a general education classroom. Typically, a school social worker's role is to identify resources and make referrals that give students access to appropriate services. A school social worker would not be able to provide direct services that would help the student succeed in the classroom. Option A is not the best response to this question.

Option B suggests that a highly structured environment in the general education classroom would be most helpful to the student. A structured environment typically helps students with needs similar to this student's to compensate for difficulties they have with attending to activities and organizing materials. Thus, option B accurately describes an approach that would support the student in that setting.

Option C suggests that daily tutoring in the resource room would best help the student succeed. While the student might benefit from consultation or support from a special education teacher or paraprofessional, receiving that help in the resource room may be counterproductive to the goal of the student succeeding in the general classroom. Assistance in the general education classroom could contribute to the student's ability to succeed in that setting, but tutoring in the resource room would not. Therefore, option C may be eliminated.

Option D suggests that a behavior intervention plan should be developed for this student. While the student may have difficulty interacting with others, there is no indication in the assessment results that his general behavior interferes with his learning or the learning of his classmates. A behavior intervention plan would be more appropriate for a student who is acting out in ways that are disruptive. Option D is therefore not the best response to this item.

Of the four options offered, **option B** describes the most appropriate strategy for helping this student succeed in a general education classroom setting.

### CLUSTERED QUESTIONS

You may have one or more questions related to a single stimulus. When you have at least two questions related to a single stimulus, the group of questions is called a cluster.





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# Chapter 5

## Multiple-Choice Practice Questions



### SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

This section presents some sample test questions for you to review as part of your preparation for the test. To demonstrate how each competency may be assessed, each sample question is accompanied by the competency that it measures. While studying, you may wish to read the competency before and after you consider each sample question. Please note that the competency statements will not appear on the actual test.

An answer key follows the sample questions. The answer key lists the question number and correct answer for each sample test question. Please note that the answer key also lists the competency assessed by each question and that the sample questions are not necessarily presented in competency order.

The sample questions are included to illustrate the formats and types of questions you will see on the test; however, your performance on the sample questions should not be viewed as a predictor of your performance on the actual test.

**COMPETENCY 001**

1. Which of the following behaviors demonstrated by a two-year-old child would be the clearest indicator that the motor development of that child may be impaired?
  - A. Difficulty coordinating hands and eyes
  - B. Inability to climb stairs with alternating feet
  - C. Falling frequently while running
  - D. Making involuntary hand movements

**COMPETENCY 001**

2. A fifth grader has diabetes and manages her illness through insulin injections. Which of the following symptoms should indicate to a teacher that this student may be experiencing insulin shock?
  - A. Trembling and irritability
  - B. A high fever
  - C. Muscle and joint pain
  - D. An increased level of thirst

**COMPETENCY 002**

3. Ms. Smith stops the class after just a few minutes of mathematics instruction, which is taking place at the board. She asks two questions requiring simple student responses on 3 x 5 cards and after quickly reviewing the cards, returns to instructing at the board. Which type of assessment is being used by this teacher?
  - A. Summative
  - B. Formal
  - C. Formative
  - D. Alternate

**COMPETENCY 003**

4. Which of the following statements best describes how the objectives in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) should relate to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)?
  - A. The IEP objectives should be identical to the TEKS with modifications in grade level only
  - B. The IEP objectives should be developed independently and then correlated with the TEKS
  - C. The IEP objectives for any given student should reflect the TEKS as closely as possible.
  - D. The IEP objectives should be developed to meet student needs with no reference to the TEKS

**COMPETENCY 003**

5. Which of the following strategies would be most effective for providing job training to a student with mental retardation for work as a food server in a fast-food restaurant?
  - A. Pair the student with an employee who can work beside him or her and model the required tasks
  - B. Make a list of job tasks for the student to refer to as necessary throughout his or her shift
  - C. Explain the steps of the job to the student carefully and check on him or her at regular intervals
  - D. Simulate the work environment and practice the job sequence in the classroom

**COMPETENCY 004**

6. Early in the school year, the students in a fifth-grade class have been demonstrating exclusionary behavior. There are two dominant cliques and there are several children, including two with disabilities, who are generally treated as outcasts. When considering how to respond, the classroom teacher should be aware that
  - A. in such situations, it is generally best to let the students work the issues out among themselves rather than to intervene in their social relationships.
  - B. the most effective response would be to ask the parents of the students in the cliques to apply disciplinary measures if their children continue the exclusionary behavior.
  - C. his or her response should be aimed primarily at bolstering the resilience and self-assertiveness of the children with the lowest social status.
  - D. it is imperative to institute a program specifically designed to build a learning community in which all students feel safe and accepted.

**COMPETENCY 004**

7. An adult is preparing to manually lift a small preschooler with multiple disabilities. Which of the following practices would best ensure the adult's safety during the lift?
- A. Prompt the child to support himself or herself during the lift to the greatest extent possible
  - B. Maintain a straight back and lift with the legs
  - C. Perform the lift as quickly as possible in a way consistent with the child's safety and comfort
  - D. Initiate the lift by bending from the waist

**COMPETENCY 005**

8. A middle school special educator has been teaching students with learning disabilities how to use chapter headings and subheadings and indexes and glossaries in their textbooks when doing content-area reading. The greatest benefit of this approach is that it
- A. promotes students' use of critical-thinking skills.
  - B. enables students to synthesize new information more quickly.
  - C. encourages students to relate new information to prior knowledge.
  - D. gives students tools for taking control of their own learning.

**COMPETENCY 005**

9. Use the information below to answer the question that follows.

A special educator is teaching Monica, a 12 year old with multiple disabilities, how to identify pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Every day, the teacher gives Monica 20 coins to identify. With the help of a chart showing each coin and its name, Monica is asked to use her speech-generating communication device to identify each coin. The results after one week of instruction are shown below.

Day	Number of Coins Identified Correctly
Monday	5
Tuesday	6
Wednesday	4
Thursday	3
Friday	4

Based upon these assessment results, the special educator's next step should be to

- A. try a different instructional approach.
- B. repeat the same activity with Monica the following week.
- C. state the value of the 20 coins.
- D. give Monica a reward every time she identifies a coin correctly.

**COMPETENCY 006**

10. Ten months ago, 16-year-old Andrew suffered a head injury in an automobile accident and was left legally blind. Since the accident, Andrew seldom leaves his house. A few friends occasionally come over to listen to music, but Andrew fears that they will get bored and stop visiting. Of the following, Andrew's special educators' best response would be to
- A. suggest a variety of new and interesting activities that can be done at home and that his friends are likely to enjoy.
  - B. help Andrew develop proficiency with electronic media that will both entertain him and allow interactions with others from home.
  - C. ask Andrew what social activities he would like to participate in outside the home and help him develop the skills for doing so.
  - D. arrange for Andrew to begin socializing with peers who are blind or visually impaired.

**COMPETENCY 006**

11. A sixth grader with a learning disability immigrated with his family to the United States a year ago. Although the student speaks English well, he never speaks to his classroom teacher unless spoken to. Concerned about this behavior, the teacher suggests to the special education teacher that the student may need social skills instruction. Which of the following factors would be most important for the special educator to take into account when considering this suggestion?
- A. Teachers can misperceive and misunderstand students' behaviors by interpreting them from one perspective
  - B. Self-confidence with regard to schoolwork depends primarily on a student's belief in his or her ability to succeed through effort
  - C. Low self-esteem can be a sign of abuse or neglect, and it is a teacher's responsibility to report all instances of suspected child abuse
  - D. General education teachers are often unclear about the special education teacher's role and make unfounded demands for assistance

**COMPETENCY 007**

12. Of the following, the most effective means of providing program continuity for children making the transition from preschool to kindergarten is to provide
- A. a preschool program that stresses the development of independent work habits and the ability to follow directions.
  - B. a developmentally appropriate program in both preschool and kindergarten that is responsive to individual differences.
  - C. a preschool environment that strongly emphasizes the development of literacy skills.
  - D. an environment in both preschool and kindergarten that engages children in collaborative planning and problem solving.

**COMPETENCY 008**

13. A kindergarten teacher shows an unfamiliar storybook to a student. The teacher asks the student to point to the name of the book and open it to the first page of the story. After the teacher reads a few pages, she asks the student to point to the words. These activities are likely to help the teacher assess the student's awareness that
- A. different conventions are associated with different genres of literature.
  - B. printed text corresponds to oral language.
  - C. letters correspond to individual speech sounds.
  - D. reading is an interactive process between reader and text.

**COMPETENCY 008**

14. A special education teacher prepares a group of students to listen to a story about a whale by asking them what they know about whales and writing the students' responses on the board. This activity is likely to facilitate comprehension of the story primarily because it will
- A. prompt students to learn more about the topic.
  - B. encourage the students to use metacognitive strategies.
  - C. integrate oral and written vocabulary skills.
  - D. connect new information to background knowledge.

**COMPETENCY 008**

15. Use the information below to answer the question that follows.

Ms. Ortiz is a special educator who teaches in a middle school resource room. At the beginning of each school year, she has each student complete an interest inventory such as the one shown below.

1. What is your favorite animal?
2. What is your favorite game?
3. What is your favorite sport?
4. What do you like to do after school?
5. What is your favorite school subject?
6. What famous person would you most like to meet?
7. What place would you like to visit?

In planning reading instruction for students with disabilities, Ms. Ortiz could best use the information from this informal assessment to

- A. determine students' instructional reading levels.
- B. suggest themes for units to the students' English language arts teachers.
- C. help students select books for independent reading.
- D. determine gaps in students' vocabulary and concept development.

**COMPETENCY 008**

16. Which of the following activities, performed by young children while a story is being read to them, would most likely encourage them to listen for meaning?

- A. Tapping their feet to the rhythm of the words
- B. Miming the action of the story
- C. Raising their hands when they hear the main character's name
- D. Making a clay sculpture of their favorite character



**COMPETENCY 008**

17. A first-grade teacher who is working with a group of beginning readers gives each student a set of word cards. On each card is printed a word that the students already have learned to read (e.g., *he, she, sees, loves, has, the, a, dog, cat, pail*). The teacher shows the students how to arrange the cards to create a statement (e.g., *she sees the cat*). Students then create their own statements and read them aloud. One goal of this activity is to promote students' reading development by reinforcing word recognition skills. In addition, this activity can be expected to promote students' writing development by
- A. helping them learn to view writing as a useful tool for communication.
  - B. promoting their recognition of similarities and differences between written and oral language.
  - C. building their understanding of basic syntactic structures.
  - D. helping develop their understanding of the value of writing conventions (e.g., capitalization, punctuation).

**COMPETENCY 008**

18. A sixth-grade teacher has made the following notes about the reading performance of Rebecca, one of her students.

Rebecca's oral reading speed and accuracy are about average for the class. Her errors, which tend to occur when she encounters polysyllabic, unfamiliar words, usually consist of substituting real words or nonsense words that are structurally similar to the printed words rather than words that are semantically or syntactically correct.

Rebecca's performance on oral and written comprehension questions that are based on silent and oral reading selections is also average for the class; however, her miscues, if numerous, sometimes seem to interfere with her comprehension.

Based on the teacher's notes about Rebecca's reading performance, Rebecca would benefit most from instruction to help her

- A. recognize high-frequency words with regular and irregular spellings.
- B. use context clues and monitor her comprehension as she reads.
- C. apply knowledge of phonics to decode unfamiliar words.
- D. improve reading fluency and vocabulary skills.

**COMPETENCY 008**

19. A teacher regularly analyzes the attempted spellings of emergent readers. In addition to providing information about students' spelling development, this approach would best help the teacher assess students'
- A. level of reading fluency.
  - B. use of word-identification strategies.
  - C. ability to apply phonics skills.
  - D. knowledge of comprehension strategies.

**COMPETENCY 008**

20. To promote students' reading fluency, a fifth-grade teacher plans activities in which students and their assigned partners will engage in repeated oral readings. When the teacher assembles reading materials for this purpose, it would be most important to assign each pair of students passages from a text that
- A. both partners are capable of reading aloud with no more than 5 word recognition errors per 100 words of text.
  - B. the students have previewed and selected themselves.
  - C. both partners are capable of reading aloud with no more than 25 word recognition errors per 100 words of text.
  - D. the students have been reading in connection with content-area study.

**COMPETENCY 008**

21. A middle school teacher plans the following activities in connection with a field trip to view a photojournalism exhibit at a local museum.

- Before the trip, students study how elements of design and photographic techniques express ideas and communicate meaning.
- The teacher gives students a list of questions to read and consider as they view the exhibit.
- After the trip, students work in small groups to write answers to the questions.
- In a whole-class discussion, students share their reactions to the exhibit and their groups' answers to the questions.

Which of the following additional activities would best help the teacher informally assess students' understanding of the way visual images and elements of design create meaning?

- A. Students work in small groups to prepare their own exhibits by using photographs from newspapers and magazines to tell a story
- B. Each student researches one photojournalist featured at the exhibit and presents a brief report on his or her work in the field
- C. Students write an essay about the photojournalism exhibit at the museum, analyzing particular photographs they liked
- D. Each student writes a simulated magazine article and creates a drawing or illustration to accompany the article

COMPETENCY 009

22. A survey has found that about 12 of every 500 airline flights are canceled due to bad weather. This number is equivalent to which of the following?

A.  $\frac{1}{24}$  of the flights  
 B.  $\frac{1}{240}$  of the flights  
 C. 0.24% of the flights  
 D. 2.4% of the flights

COMPETENCY 009

23. Use the diagrams below to answer the question that follows.

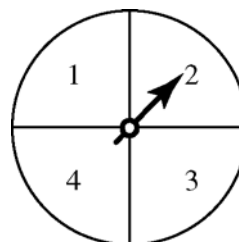


Bricks are stacked in the pattern shown above. If the pattern continues, how many bricks will there be in a stack that has seven layers?

A. 27  
 B. 28  
 C. 35  
 D. 36

COMPETENCY 009

24. Students in a third-grade class are playing a board game. On each player's turn, he or she spins a spinner that is divided into four quadrants, as shown below.



The teacher overhears a student remark, "Since I haven't spun a four yet, I'll probably get a four on this turn." The student has demonstrated a misconception regarding which of the following mathematical concepts?

A. Rational numbers  
 B. Mean and median  
 C. Independent events  
 D. Even and odd

**COMPETENCY 009**

25. A special education teacher provides math instruction in the resource room for individuals and small groups of students who have either mental retardation or learning disabilities. When teaching the students with learning disabilities, which of the following instructional guidelines would be most appropriate for the teacher to follow?
- A. Emphasize the use of mathematics in science and technology
  - B. Focus primarily on mathematical concepts that are likely to be useful in everyday life
  - C. Emphasize the role of deductive reasoning in mathematics
  - D. Connect mathematical concepts to concrete examples with which the students are already familiar

**COMPETENCY 009**

26. A third grader with special needs has been having trouble memorizing basic arithmetic facts, and the classroom teacher asks the special education teacher's advice. In general, which of the following would be the most important principle to follow in this situation?
- A. Suspend for the present all mathematical activities other than those aimed directly at memorizing arithmetic facts
  - B. Modify math instruction to focus primarily on the use of manipulatives to build conceptual understanding
  - C. Address the problem now so that lack of automaticity will not impede more advanced math learning later on
  - D. Discontinue memorization of facts in favor of teaching the student to use a calculator efficiently and accurately

**COMPETENCY 009**

27. In general, math instruction for students with learning disabilities in mathematics should be characterized by
- A. the development of cognitive strategies rather than a mastery of facts.
  - B. the development of math process skills.
  - C. instructional activities limited to hands-on operations with concrete objects.
  - D. a balanced program of concepts, skills and problem solving.

**COMPETENCY 009**

28. Joyce and Tyrone, two third graders, are counting how many gallon and quart milk containers have been collected for a class science project. As they count, Tyrone comments to Joyce that the gallon container is twice as big as the quart container. The teacher could best use this as an opportunity to develop Tyrone's understanding of the concept of capacity by
- A. asking him if he can think of some method of measurement that will test his statement.
  - B. pointing out to him that the word *quart* sounds like the word *quarter* and asking him what that suggests about the relative sizes of the two containers.
  - C. explaining to him that doubling the linear dimensions of a rectangular solid quadruples the volume.
  - D. having him use a computer to generate two- and three-dimensional models of the containers in question and then identify similarities and differences among the models generated.

**COMPETENCY 009**

29. Which of the following is the most appropriate reason to use curriculum-based assessments?
- A. To confirm the students' grade level
  - B. To identify skills that need reteaching
  - C. To compare with last year's test scores
  - D. To determine the student's intellectual ability

**COMPETENCY 009**

30. Which of the following would be the best activity for reviewing the concept of fractions to fourth-grade students?
- A. Using pictures to model unit fractions of a whole
  - B. Drawing pictures of fractions from memory
  - C. Writing fractions using numbers
  - D. Comparing fractions using a variety of materials

**COMPETENCY 009**

31. Which of the following is a developmentally appropriate activity for a kindergartner to establish basic number sense?
- A. Completing one-to-one correspondence exercise
  - B. Generalizing skills and applying them to new situations
  - C. Arranging ten objects from smallest to largest
  - D. Using a calculator to solve simple mathematics problems

**COMPETENCY 010**

32. Which of the following IDEA categories of disability has the greatest percent of students?
- A. Communication impaired
  - B. Behavior and emotional disturbance
  - C. Specific learning disability
  - D. Mental retardation

**COMPETENCY 010**

33. In which of the following ways has the movement toward accountability in education most significantly affected those students who receive special education services?
- A. Students must now achieve Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals before graduation
  - B. Special education students' grades must reflect the standards applied to general education students
  - C. Fewer special education students pass end-of-course assessments
  - D. More students with disabilities are participating in statewide testing

**COMPETENCY 011**

34. Which of the following would be most effective when working with second-grade linguistically diverse students with disabilities?
- A. Listening to class discussions and asking questions
  - B. Presenting vocabulary that is needed in the learning context
  - C. Having the student dictate their responses to test questions
  - D. Introducing mnemonic devices for difficult vocabulary words

**COMPETENCY 011**

35. A beginning special educator teaches middle school students from diverse backgrounds in a resource room. At the beginning of the school year, the teacher reviews a list of rules for the resource room with each group of students and hangs the list on the classroom wall. One rule states, "Work quietly without disturbing others." Several times during the first weeks of school, students start helping each other with their work instead of focusing on their own. Consequently, the teacher has given out warnings to students for breaking the rule. When reflecting upon the students' behavior, the teacher should be aware that
- A. students from some cultures embrace a belief of interdependence rather than independence.
  - B. rules should be consistently enforced to create a secure environment for students.
  - C. students are more likely to follow rules that are accompanied by some form of reinforcement.
  - D. resource rooms typically do not require the same degree of structure that general classrooms do.

**COMPETENCY 012**

36. During mathematics lessons, a special educator has students work in groups of two or three. Which of the following strategies would be most effective in teaching students the social skill of sharing during these lessons?
- A. Giving the groups a time limit to solve a set of problems
  - B. Reviewing the answers to all of the problems at the end of class
  - C. Having the students work with the same group for several days
  - D. Providing each group with only one set of materials

**COMPETENCY 012**

37. Mr. McClure, a special education paraprofessional assigned to an elementary resource room, has a tendency to come in late to class. His supervisor, Mr. Washington, would like to discuss the issue with Mr. McClure in a way that would elicit the paraprofessional's genuine cooperation. Which of the following types of statements could the special educator make to address this goal most effectively?
- A. A reminder about Mr. McClure's responsibilities as they are stated in his contract
  - B. A description of what the special education teacher observes Mr. McClure doing and the effect it has on the class
  - C. A summary clearly indicating the special education teacher's impressions of Mr. McClure's needs
  - D. A promise that if Mr. McClure is punctual all week, the special education teacher will let him leave early on Friday

**ANSWER KEY**

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>	<b>Competency</b>
1	D	001
2	A	001
3	C	002
4	C	003
5	A	003
6	D	004
7	B	004
8	D	005
9	A	005
10	C	006
11	A	006
12	B	007
13	B	008
14	D	008
15	C	008
16	B	008
17	C	008
18	B	008
19	C	008
20	A	008
21	A	008
22	D	009
23	B	009
24	C	009
25	D	009
26	C	009
27	D	009
28	A	009
29	B	009
30	D	009
31	A	009
32	C	010
33	D	010
34	B	011
35	A	011
36	D	012
37	B	012



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# Chapter 6

**Are You Ready? – Last Minute Tips**

**6**



### PREPARING TO TAKE THE TEST

#### CHECKLIST

Complete this checklist to determine if you are ready to take your test.

- ✓ Do you know the testing requirements for your teaching field?
- ✓ Have you followed the test registration procedures?
- ✓ Have you reviewed the test center identification document requirements in the *Registration Bulletin* or on the ETS TExES website at [www.texas.ets.org](http://www.texas.ets.org)?
- ✓ Do you know the test frameworks that will be covered in each of the tests you plan to take?
- ✓ Have you used the study plan sheet at the end of this booklet to identify what content you already know well and what content you will need to focus on in your studying?
- ✓ Have you reviewed any textbooks, class notes and course readings that relate to the frameworks covered?
- ✓ Do you know how long the test will take and the number of questions it contains? Have you considered how you will pace your work?
- ✓ Are you familiar with the test directions and the types of questions for your test?
- ✓ Are you familiar with the recommended test-taking strategies and tips?
- ✓ Have you practiced by working through the sample test questions at a pace similar to that of an actual test?
- ✓ If constructed-response questions are part of your test, do you understand the scoring criteria for these questions?
- ✓ If you are repeating a test, have you analyzed your previous score report to determine areas where additional study and test preparation could be useful?

## THE DAY OF THE TEST

You should have ended your review a day or two before the actual test date. Many clichés you may have heard about the day of the test are true. You should:

- Be well rested.
- Take the appropriate identification document(s) with you to the test center (identification requirements are listed in the *Registration Bulletin* and on the ETS TExES website at **[www.texas.ets.org](http://www.texas.ets.org)**).
- Take 3 or 4 well-sharpened soft-lead (No. 2 or HD) pencils with good erasers.
- Eat before you take the test.
- Be prepared to stand in line to check in or to wait while other test takers are being checked in.
- Stay calm. You can't control the testing situation, but you can control yourself. The test administrators are well trained and make every effort to provide uniform testing conditions, but don't let it bother you if a test doesn't start exactly on time. You will have the necessary amount of time once it does start. Using the *Reducing Test Anxiety* booklet in the days before you test may be helpful in mentally and emotionally preparing yourself to test. It is available free at **[www.texas.ets.org](http://www.texas.ets.org)**.

You can think of preparing for this test as training for an athletic event. Once you have trained, prepared and rested, give it everything you've got. Good luck.



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# Appendix A

## Study Plan Sheet



STUDY PLAN						
Content covered on test	How well do I know the content?	What material do I have for studying this content?	What material do I need for studying this content?	Where can I find the materials I need?	Dates planned for study of content	Date completed

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# Appendix B

## Preparation Resources



### PREPARATION RESOURCES

The resources listed below may help you prepare for the TExES test in this field. These preparation resources have been identified by content experts in the field to provide up-to-date information that relates to the field in general. You may wish to use current issues or editions to obtain information on specific topics for study and review.

### RESOURCES

- Anastasiow, N., Gallagher, J., and Kirk, S. (2006). *Educating Exceptional Children*, Twelfth Edition. New York, N.Y.: Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Bateman, B. D., and Herr, C. M. (2006). *Writing Measurable IEP Goals and Objectives*. Attainment Company Inc.
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- Henley, M., Ramsey, R. S., and Algozzine, R. (2008). *Characteristics of and Strategies for Teaching Students with Mild Disabilities*, Sixth Edition. Boston, Mass.: Allyn Bacon.
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- Kregel, J., and Wehman, P. (Eds.). (2003). *Functional Curriculum*, Second Edition. Austin, Texas: Pro-Ed, Inc.
- Lapp, D., Flood, J., and Farnan, N. (2007). *Content Area Reading and Learning: Instructional Strategies*, Third Edition. Boston, Mass.: Allyn and Bacon.
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## ONLINE RESOURCES

- Assistive Technology Strategies, Tools, Accommodations and Resources — [www.atstar.org](http://www.atstar.org)
- Burnett, Jane. *Critical Behaviors and Strategies for Teaching Culturally Diverse Students* — [www.eric.ed.gov](http://www.eric.ed.gov)
- Council for Exceptional Children. *Code of Ethics* — [www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ProfessionalStandards/EthicsPracticeStandards/default.htm](http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ProfessionalStandards/EthicsPracticeStandards/default.htm)
- Early Childhood Intervention Services — [www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis)
- Jolivet, K., Scott, T. M., and Nelson, C. M. (2000). *The Link Between Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)* — [www.ericdigests.org/2000-4/bips.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/2000-4/bips.htm)
- McLaren, E. M. and Nelson, M. C. (2009). *Using Functional Behavior Assessment to Develop Behavior Interventions for Students in Head Start* — [www.ericd.gov](http://www.ericd.gov)
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities. *Transition Planning: A Team Effort* — [www.nichcy.org/InformationResources/Documents/NICHCY%20PUBS/ts10.pdf](http://www.nichcy.org/InformationResources/Documents/NICHCY%20PUBS/ts10.pdf)
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities. *Transition Services in the IEP* — [www.nichcy.org/InformationResources/Documents/NICHCY%20PUBS/ts8txt.htm](http://www.nichcy.org/InformationResources/Documents/NICHCY%20PUBS/ts8txt.htm)
- Partners Resource Network — [www.partnerstx.org](http://www.partnerstx.org)
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- Texas Education Agency, Division of Special Education. *A Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process* — [www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/ardguide](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/ardguide)
- Texas Education Agency, Division of Special Education. *Assistive Technology* — [www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/astech](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/astech)
- Texas Education Agency, Division of Special Education. *Federal Regulations: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) '97* — [www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/rules/cfr](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/rules/cfr)
- Texas Education Agency, Division of Special Education. *Reading Resources* — [www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/reading/resource.html](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/reading/resource.html)
- Texas Education Agency, Division of Special Education. *Special Education Rules and Regulations* — [www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/rules/sbs.html](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/rules/sbs.html)
- Texas Education Agency, Division of Special Education. *Student Success Initiative* — [www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/ssi/index.html](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/ssi/index.html)
- Texas Education Agency, Student Assessment Division. *ARD Committee Decision-Making Process for the Texas Assessment Program* — [www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/sdaa](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/sdaa)
- Texas Education Agency, Student Assessment Division. *State-Developed Alternative Assessment (SDAA)* — [www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/sdaa](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/sdaa)
- Vincent, C. G., Horner, R. H., and Sugai, G. *Developing Social Competence in All Students* — [www.ericec.org/digests](http://www.ericec.org/digests)

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