Ladies,

If you read carefully in the TEA assessment newsletter you might have noticed that TEA is developing Interim assessments with ETS.  I have heard a couple of presentations on the subject, but they are saving the big details to present at the Assessment conference in November.

I wanted to share the details of what I have learned as I feel that you (DOI) will want to provide direction and vision for these assessments to the campuses, and what the vision is will have an impact on me as the DTC who will be responsible for setting up these assessments just like real online STAAR tests.

What I know…

* Interim assessments will be available in the spring of 2018 (registration in December and testing available in January/February?).  ETS assures us that these will be offered in windows which will not interfere with any STAAR testing.
* Starting in the 2018-19 school year interim assessments will be available in two windows, a Fall (October/November?) and Spring (January/February?)
* Test will ONLY be available for 3-8 Reading and Math (English only) – after 2019… more subjects?  Spanish? More grade levels?
* ONLINE testing online
* For 2018 (Spring) the only online support available will be Text-to-Speech besides online accessibility features (highlighter, zoom, color contrast, place marker, etc).  In the fall of 2018 and moving forward, all online accessibility features as well as online support features (Text-to-Speech and Language and Content Supports) will be available for testers.
* The test and questions will be formatted to be completed in a “class period” – guessing 45 minutes.  All questions will be aligned to be predictive towards STAAR test success.
* Test data will be stored in an accessible data base – think AWARE.

ETS is rolling this out quickly to get us started on using interim assessments, but as we move into the Fall of 2018 this should be a more full and ready product.  I currently have more questions than answers, so I would be honored to have an opportunity to meet with you all after the Assessment Conference and review TEA’s presentation and hopefully be able to answer your questions on this new testing opportunity.

Robert