



TEA WELCOME BULLETIN

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TMDS & TSDS are free to all districts in the state of Texas. TMDS & TSDS are provided to public school districts and charter schools through the Governor's Math and Science Initiatives. The development of TMDS & TSDS is a partnership between the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Vantage Learning (the system host), education service centers, and school district math and science experts.

What are TMDS and TSDS

TMDS & TSDS is a web-based diagnostic assessment tool targeting students in elementary through high school. Although it was not designed as a TAKS prep tool and is not linked to the state accountability system, TMDS & TSDS is replete with features and functionality

Key Features of TMDS & TSDS

- ❖ ***Item Banks Aligned to TEKS.*** TMDS & TSDS contains over 6,000 test questions in both English and Spanish – multiple choice and open ended – aligned to the TEKS in Grades 3-12.
- ❖ ***Create Your Own Test.*** TMDS & TSDS allows district administrators, principals and teachers to search the entire item bank and create custom tests. The possibilities are limitless. Just a few examples are: (1) Districts can implement district-wide benchmark programs, (2) Schools and teachers can create end-of-unit tests; (3) Teachers can create tests focused on one or two TEKS just after those concepts are taught; and (4) Teachers can create tests designed for specific students based on their diagnosed weakness.
- ❖ ***Reports.*** TMDS & TSDS provides immediate reports for the student, class, school, district, region and/or the state levels.
 - ***Student Portfolio.*** Students can view performance on items, by strand, and overall test performance.
 - ***Customized Reports.*** Teachers can filter reports by group, gender, ethnicity and at-risk status.
 - ***Item Analysis.*** Teachers can view summary class data and obtain online item analysis data to quickly identify easy and hard questions.



- **Statewide Reports.** All administrators can view state aggregate data by grade level. State reports also summarize performance for all regions, all districts and all schools.
- **History Data.** 2003-06 statewide data is available.
- ❖ **Online Testing and Paper and Pencil.** TMDS & TSDS offers the choice of computerized testing as well as paper and pencil testing. Teachers can print a test and have students answer by paper and pencil. To view results immediately, answers can be scanned into the application or students can use the electronic bubble sheet to click in their responses.
- ❖ **Accessibility Tool.** An accessibility tool allows teachers or students to increase font size, change font color and/or change background, ideal for early readers, color blind or visually impaired students.
- ❖ **Self-Import Tool.** The self-import tool allows the application to retain data from last year and promote 'existing' students to a new grade level or school.
- ❖ **Pre-adaptive Tests.** Pre-adaptive tests designed to collect student responses so that TMDS can move to an adaptive platform. Adaptive testing relies on the computer to calculate the best set of items to deliver to each student based on student performance. The test begins with an item at grade level, the computer automatically searches the pool of thousands of items to find the next best item. Instead of restricting a test to 30 or so 6th grade items, adaptive testing may find the student's true ability is at the 4th or 5th or possibly even the 7th grade level.
- ❖ **System Requirements Check.** A systems requirements check link located in the lower right corner of the screen allows you to ensure your individual desktop computer has the minimum technical requirements to run the application. If your computer does not meet the minimums, the program will provide you with a link to a free download of what is needed.
- ❖ **New!** Located in the Information Box, a 10-minute demonstration movie allows new users to become familiar with the application by offering a brief overview of features and functionality.
- ❖ **New!** All items are tagged with levels of difficulty – easy, medium, and hard – and teachers can search the item bank by these fields.
- ❖ **New!** A Teacher Assessment Plan is available as a resource that offers guidance to teachers on how and when to use linear tests in conjunction with CAT tests.

Mathematics (TMDS)

- ❖ **English and Spanish Preconfigured Tests.** TMDS contains preconfigured, grade-specific diagnostic assessments aligned to the math TEKS in Grades 3-12. These forms include:
 - Form C Long
 - Form C Mini A
 - Form C Mini B



- Form D Long
 - Form D Mini A
 - Form D Mini B
- Form E Long
 - Form E Mini A
 - Form E Mini B
- English Test Forms: Grades 3-8, 9-12.
- Spanish Test Forms: Grades 3-6 (7-12 coming soon).
- ❖ **New!** TMDS offers higher-level mathematics items designed for the 9th-12th grade students in Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry.
- ❖ **New!** Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) in English is available for grades 4 – 8 in TMDS. Teachers may use CAT tests to better estimate the performance level of their students.
- ❖ **New!** Test Form E, long and short forms, are available for all grades in both English and Spanish.

Science (TSDS) *New for 2006-07!*

- ❖ **Item Bank Aligned to TEKS.** A bank of approximately 3,000 items developed specifically for this project, aligned to the TEKS, covering subject material across 3-8, Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) and Biology. Items are reviewed thoroughly by the TEA and include difficulty levels of easy, medium or hard.
- ❖ **Pre-configured Tests.** Two test forms covering Key Concepts and Science Literacy will be available for grades 4-8, IPC and Biology, allowing teachers the option to assign tests created specifically for each grade level. Key Concept forms are available now while Science Literacy Forms will be available Spring 2007.
- ❖ **Coming Soon! Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT).** TSDS will include three separate computer adaptive tests that cover curriculum for grades 4-8, IPC and Biology with scaled results and feedback available to teachers.
- ❖ **Create Your Own Test.** Similar to math, science teachers and administrators have the ability to search the entire item bank and create custom tests. Users can search for items based on a particular TEK, student expectation, and even difficulty level to create a test designed for their unique student needs. Some examples of tests that can be created include: district-wide benchmark programs, end of unit tests and tests that focus on one or two TEKS--perfect for delivery right after those concepts are taught!

Getting Started

Gaining access to TMDS & TSDS is simple as 1-2-3!

1. Designate a point of contact for your district.



2. Submit the TEA Enrollment form.
3. After receiving an email with instructions from Vantage, submit your data files.

Questions

Kindly direct TMDS & TSDS questions to the Vantage Technical Support Team

Telephone -- 800-322-0848

Email -- accesstmds@vantage.com or accesstsd.com@vantage.com