

Sound Bite  
TAKS Progress Measure

The TAKS Progress Measure is mis-named, as students who “progress” but still fail to meet the passing standard are not counted as “passers” if they do not meet strict criteria for inclusion. At-Risk students often do not earn enough credits to move from one grade level to the next in one school year – that is why they are at-risk. If those students take the same grade level TAKS test two years in a row – and make progress – they are not eligible for TAKS Progress measure because the criteria for inclusion is “successive tests in successive school years”. Exit Level testers who attempt the exit test multiple times - and progress – are also not eligible to be counted in the TAKS Progress measure because the exit level test is not included in the criteria. The definition of “Progress” is forward movement; advance; gradual betterment. If schools serving at-risk students are helping those students make PROGRESS then those schools should get credit for that achievement under AEA. If we are punished because we help the student improve but can't quite get them to meet the passing standard, then why should we help these students at all? Maybe we should just let them stay drop-outs!

I would just like to ask if we could work together and dialogue about this important issue prior to the regular legislative session so that we can continue to make PROGRESS towards educating every student in the great state of Texas.

*Melissa Karp*