



Where Panthers Excel Today and Lead Tomorrow

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April 6, 2018

Dear WISD Seventh Grade Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to inform you of your child's participation in the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Writing Assessment Pilot Program.

As required by House Bill 1164, 85th Texas Legislature, for 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 school years, TEA is conducting a writing pilot study to determine methods developed at the local level to assess writing that might be used for state accountability purposes. Currently, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) program solely assesses student writing skills in grades 4 and 7, and on the English I and II end-of-course (EOC) tests.

To this end, TEA is partnering with Westwood Junior High to study the local assessment of 7th-grade writing. As part of the study, your student will be producing the following over the course of the spring semester:

- Two timed writing samples collected mid-year and at the end of the school year
- One process writing sample in a selected genre that illustrates the writing process from start to finish
- An instructional portfolio containing at a minimum the two writing samples listed above, to demonstrate growth and engagement in the writing process

These writing products are produced within the flow of classroom instruction of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum standards. The products are scored both individually and analytically by participating K-12 and higher education staff including your student's teacher.

Due to your student participating in the writing pilot study at the 7th-grade junior high level, it is important to note that your child will not take the 7th-grade Writing STAAR Assessment during the 2018 spring testing cycle; therefore, they will not receive a typical writing STAAR score for the 2017-18 school year. Data from the writing pilot will be provided to the district to help support the students learning and growth.

More information, including the program's design, can be found at http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/writing_pilot_study.pdf.

For further questions and clarification, please contact Christine Bedre, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction and Leadership or Sonya Brown, Westwood Junior High Principal.

Sincerely,

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