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Updates for ESC Region 17 Bilingual and ESL Districts

December 2015

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LPAC MOY Training on State Assessments for ELLs [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Key LPAC members should attend.

Tuesday, December 8: Middle-of-the-year (MOY) training for key LPAC member on the Decision-Making for Assessments of ELLs and Linguistic Accommodations for the STAAR program.

Save the date! February 13 Texas Tech STEM Conference hosted at ESC 17 [\(Back to Top\)](#)

One day conference for teachers of ELLs.

ESC 17 will host the Texas Tech Proyecto STEM Conference on Saturday, February 13, 2016. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jeff Zwiers author of Building Academic Language: Essential Practices for Content Classrooms, Grades 5-12. Mini-sessions on math, science, social studies, and ELAR will be included.

Holiday Culture Lessons in the ESL Classroom [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Avoid cultural misunderstandings this holiday season.

FluentU.com provides four awesome holiday lessons to get you started teaching culture in your ESL classroom!

<http://www.fluentu.com/english/educator/blog/esl-holiday-lessons-activities-plans/>

CHANGES TO 2016 TEPAS HOLISTIC RATING TRAINING [\(Back to Top\)](#)

TELPAS holistic rating training will include changes for the 2015–2016 school year.

Key changes beginning in January 2016 include the following:

- online training courses and calibrations will be available at a new website that will allow for a more streamlined training experience

- calibration must be completed in a monitored setting
- the number of opportunities to calibrate will be reduced from three sets to two sets
- supplemental support provider training requirements will be eliminated
- local procedures must be established for verifying the completion of training and calibration
- training history will no longer be available

Calibration procedures are being streamlined to simplify the process while enhancing security.

TELPAS WRITING AUDIT for 2016

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There will be a TELPAS writing audit in spring 2016.

The purpose of the TELPAS writing audit is to provide ongoing evidence of the validity and reliability of the holistically rated writing component of the TELPAS assessment to meet state and federal requirements. Under this assessment system, teachers are trained to use the TELPAS Proficiency Level Descriptors (PLDs) to rate the English language proficiency of students in specified language domains, including writing. The primary audit activities include the following:

- evaluating the extent to which the writing English language proficiency ratings assigned by teacher raters match those assigned by state audit raters,
- gathering feedback from teacher raters on the quality of their training for writing, and
- examining how well educators followed state-defined administration procedures to rate writing performance.

Districts will be notified in the spring of their participation and the processes they need to follow to be compliant with the audit.

If you have questions or need additional information about the 2015–2016 assessment activities, please call TEA's Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Assessment Contact Information

Texas Education Agency

Department of Assessment and Accountability, Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner

Student Assessment Division, Gloria Zyskowski, Director

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