

Press Release

Texas Education Agency

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Passing rate rises on high-stakes fifth-grade math TAKS

AUSTIN – Eighty-one percent of Texas students passed the state’s high-stakes fifth-grade mathematics exam – a test they must pass to be promoted to sixth grade.

Passing rates for hurricane evacuees continued to lag significantly behind students who did not have their school year disrupted by hurricanes. Results released today show that only 45 percent of the 2,396 fifth-grade students who were displaced by Hurricanes Rita or Katrina passed the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) math exam.

Overall, statewide results from the April 4 math exam show that 239,673 of the 294,794 students who took the test in English passed the test. That passing rate of 81 percent is a 2 percent increase over 2005 passing rates. If students displaced by hurricanes are excluded from the calculation, the overall statewide passing rate would have been 82 percent.

White fifth-grade students had a passing rate of 91 percent, compared to a 77 percent success rate for Hispanics and a 68 percent passing rate for African-American students. Seventy-four percent of economically-disadvantaged students passed the test. Among the 6,495 students who took the Spanish language version of the math test, 3,079 or 47 percent passed the exam.

Students have up to three times to take and pass each of these tests. The fifth-grade students who either failed the reading exam in February or were absent that day had another chance to take the test on April 19. Those results are not yet available. The next math retest date is May 16. Students who fail the exam receive intensive remediation in an effort to help them master reading or math.

Scores for local districts and campuses are not yet available at the Texas Education Agency. Those results are available from your local district or charter school.