HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE I, PART A PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Kelso Elementary
5800 Southmund
Houston, TX 77033

Date: December 14, 2020

TO: Parents of Students Attending Kelso Elementary

SUBJECT: **Explanation and Description of Assessments**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires all Title I schools to provide to parents a description and explanation of the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress. Below are various assessments that HISD and its schools use throughout the year. In addition, local assessments that are used at Kelso Elementary to measure student progress are also included at the end of this letter.

In the Spring of 2012, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) replaced the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The STAAR program at grades 3–8 will assess the same subjects and grades that were previously assessed on TAKS. At the high school level, however, grade-specific assessments will be replaced with 5 end-of-course (EOC) assessments: Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, and U.S. History.

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) assessments will no longer be administered. Students for whom TAKS is a graduation requirement, including former TAAS and TEAMS examinees, may pursue the following options to receive a Texas high school diploma.

1. Request a district decision. An examinee should contact the school district where he or she was last enrolled to request a district decision regarding whether the examinee qualifies to graduate and receive a high school diploma. More details about this option can be found in Senate Bill 463, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017. More information about this option can be found in Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.1027.
2. Achieve satisfactory performance on an alternate assessment. The alternate assessments allowed for TAKS are SAT, ACT, TSI, and STAAR. Former TAKS, TAAS, and TEAMS examinees should take only the appropriate part of the alternate assessment he or she needs to fulfill testing graduation requirements. More information is available in the Texas Administrative Code §101.4003.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has developed the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness Alternate (**STAAR™ Alternate 2**) to meet the federal requirements mandated under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), a federal education law reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind law. STAAR Alternate 2 is designed for the purpose of assessing students in grades 3–8 and high school who have significant cognitive disabilities and are receiving special education services.

IOWA is a norm-referenced achievement test that measures students' academic achievement in reading, writing, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Logramos is a norm-referenced achievement test for students whose primary language of instruction is Spanish. It measures students' academic achievement in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

TELPAS is designed to measure the English language proficiency of K–12 English Language Learners in four language domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

TEA has developed the **TELPAS Alternate (TELPAS Alt)** assessment to meet the federal requirements mandated under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which requires states to administer an alternate English language proficiency (ELP) assessment for English learners (ELs) with the most significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the general ELP assessment, even with allowable accommodations.

The CogAT measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which also contribute importantly to school achievement.

To find out more about the STAAR study guides and released tests, visit the Texas Education Agency's Web site at www.tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/ . If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the contact person listed at the end of this letter and this information will be provided to you.

In addition to the assessments above, Kelso Elementary also uses the following assessment(s) to measure student progress:

SNAP Assessment
DLA
Renaissance 360

If you have questions concerning this letter or need paper copies of the material referenced on the Web site, contact the school's Title I Campus Contact Person, _____at _____, or e-mail Raishym.Tellis@houstonis.org.

Sincerely,

_____, Principal