

**Texas District Performance on TAAS and TAKS
1999-2003**

I CAN Learn® (ICL) in Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD)

FWISD introduced I CAN Learn® into 13 of its Algebra I classes in May 1999. Because of the immediate success it experienced with the program, the district installed ICL in 7th grade classes and expanded its use in Algebra I. A dilemma arose in attempting to demonstrate the long-term effectiveness of ICL in FWISD because there are no longer comparison groups of non-ICL students in FWISD. Therefore, FWISD results were compared to the results for other large Texas school districts. Districts that are similar in size and student demographics include Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Waco, and Alief. Table 1 compares the districts in percentage of students classified as economically disadvantaged and limited English proficiency (LEP), as well as the percentages of African American and Hispanic students.

Table 1
Student demographics

	Texas	Fort Worth	Dallas	Houston	San Antonio	Waco	Alief
%disadvantaged	51.9	64.3	77.6	80.3	90.4	79.6	57.8
%LEP	14.9	25.6	32.1	28.6	19.0	10.9	29.2
% African American		32.7	32.9	34.7	9.4	37.7	36.9
% Hispanic Student		35.5	58.9	44.7	86.5	44.1	41.4
Population		80,989	162,989	211,762	57,076	15,731	44,567

In order to compare student results across districts, % passing rates for each district for 1999-2003 were obtained from the Texas Education Agency website:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/index.html>.

Difficulties in comparing district performance

The criterion-referenced test given in Texas changed in 2003 from TAAS to TAKS. All districts saw decreasing percentages of students passing with the new test as it is alleged to be a better indicator of on-grade-level performance than the previous test. Thus, comparisons of % passing from 1999 to 2003 will show sharp declines in 2003. In order to correct for this problem created by the change in the test, district % passing has been converted to an index relative to the state percent passing. This index allows for year-to-year comparisons of district performance relative to state performance. The index for each district is calculated by dividing the district percent passing by the state percent passing. Table 2 presents the percent passing by district for 7th and 10th grades (10th grade to represent Algebra I as the test was not given in 9th grade) and Table 3 presents the index for 7th and 10th grades.

Table 2
% passing by district

7 th grade	Texas	Fort Worth	Dallas	Houston	San Antonio	Waco	Alief
1999	84.9	70.8	69.2	71.9	69.3	85.4	80.9
2000	88.1	78	72.9	78.5	74.8	88.6	81.1
2001	89.6	81.9	75.4	83.1	78.7	91.9	82.3
2002	92.2	83.6	84	89.2	80.9	92.9	88.0
2003	73.4	65.6	58	60	51.7	57.2	59.1

10 th grade	Texas	Fort Worth	Dallas	Houston	San Antonio	Waco	Alief
1999	81.6	71	70.7	76	67.6	65.6	69.1
2000	86.8	75	77.1	82.3	75.2	77.5	83.8
2001	89.3	78	83.1	85.3	78.9	85.4	82.3
2002	92.2	86.8	86.8	88.9	84.2	85.6	89.0
2003	74.2	67.7	61.7	62.2	63.5	54.1	67.6

Table 3
Index to state performance by district

7 th grade	Texas	Fort Worth	Dallas	Houston	San Antonio	Waco	Alief
1999	1	0.833922	0.815077	0.846879	0.816254	1.005889	0.952886
2000	1	0.885358	0.827469	0.891033	0.849035	1.005675	0.920545
2001	1	0.914063	0.841518	0.927455	0.878348	1.025670	0.918527
2002	1	0.906725	0.911063	0.967462	0.87744	1.007592	0.954447
2003	1	0.893733	0.790191	0.817439	0.70436	0.779292	0.805177

10 th grade	Texas	Fort Worth	Dallas	Houston	San Antonio	Waco	Alief
1999	1	0.870098	0.866422	0.931373	0.828431	0.803922	0.846814
2000	1	0.864055	0.888249	0.948157	0.866359	0.892857	0.965438
2001	1	0.87346	0.930571	0.955207	0.883539	0.956327	0.921613
2002	1	0.941432	0.941432	0.964208	0.913232	0.928416	0.965293
2003	1	0.912399	0.831536	0.838275	0.855795	0.729111	0.911051

Line graphs show how the districts compared relative to the state across the 5 years. The 7th grade graph (Figure 1) shows that Fort Worth performance increased with ICL and its index kept up with the state even after introduction of TAKS in 2003. Other districts showed marked declines in 2003. Similar results were found for 10th grade (see Figure 2).

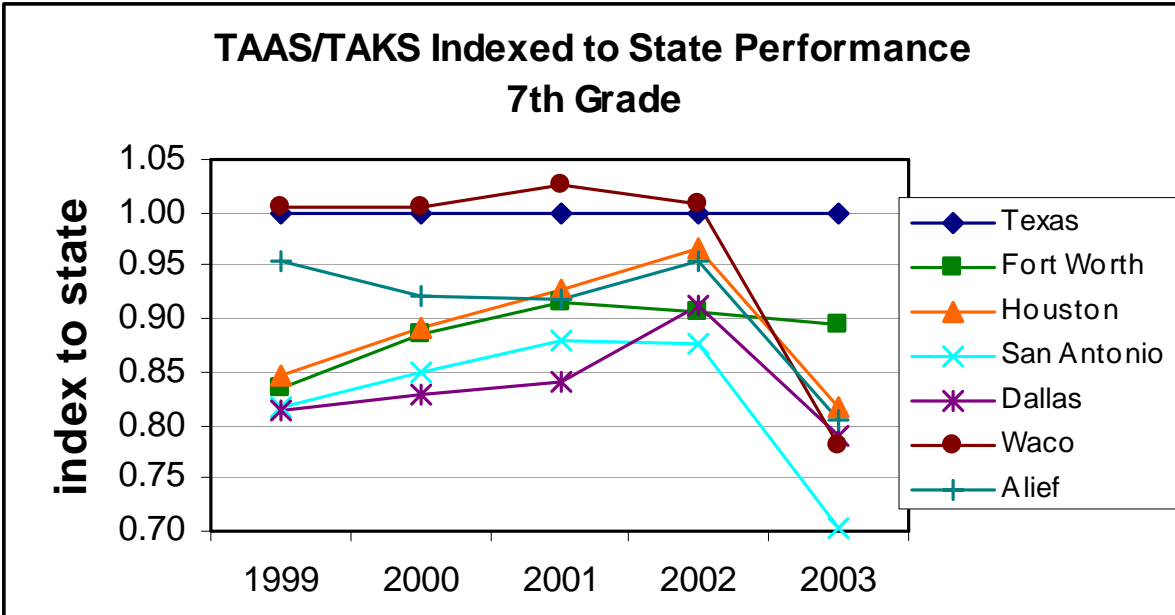


Figure 1. 7th grade performance indexed to state performance

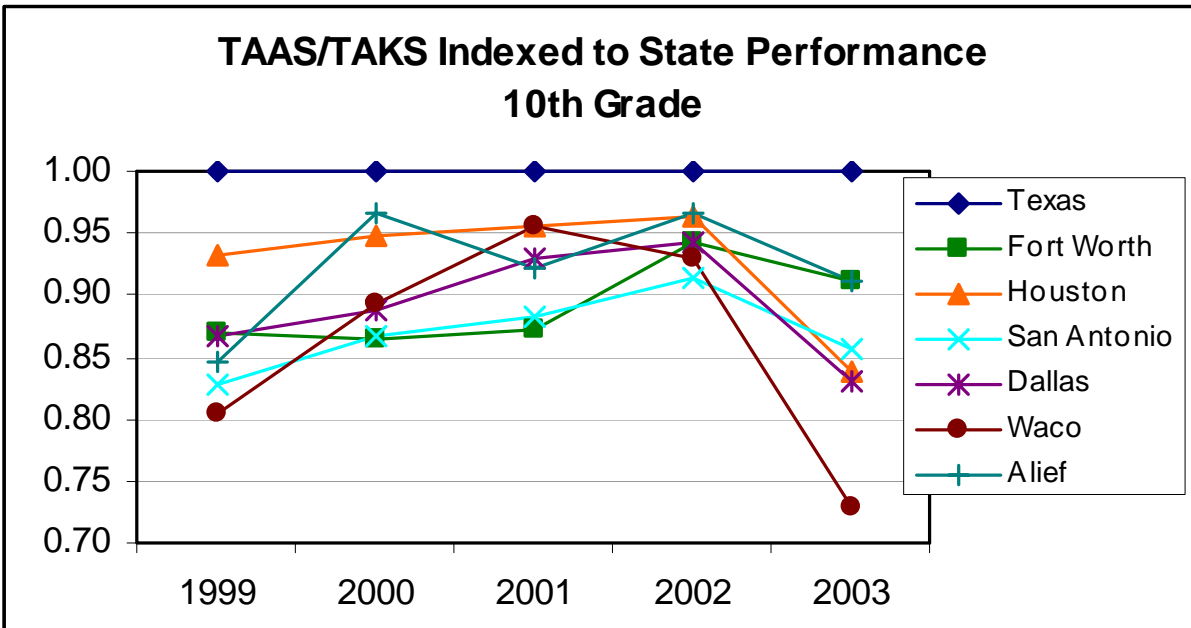


Figure 2. 10th grade performance indexed to state performance