

## Student Technology Literacy and Assessment



Texas students are currently required by federal law to be technology literate by the end of the 8th grade. The state defines a “technology literate student” as a student who meets the requirements of the state’s **Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)**. Although the state has Technology Applications content standards and adopted instructional materials, it doesn’t have a standard statewide process for assessing student technology literacy.

During the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007, House Bill (HB) 2503 was passed and a 2-year pilot program (to include Jordan Middle School) was established, using Learning.com’s Tech Literacy Assessment. The seven Skill Modules include:

- *Systems and Fundamentals*
- *Social and Ethical*
- *Telecommunications and Internet*
- *Word Processing*
- *Spreadsheets*
- *Database*
- *Multimedia and Presentations*

The TechLiteracy Assessment uses a combination of *multiple-choice* questions and interactive *performance-based* items to authentically assess students. The test was designed to be completed within 50 minutes, with an average test duration of 30 minutes. The test is untimed, so students have as much time as they need for completion.

The TechLiteracy Assessment performance is measured in two ways:

- *Skill Module Results*. Results for skill modules indicate the number of items *correct* out of the *possible* number of items.
- *Proficiency Standard*. This is a criterion-referenced assessment, with the “met proficiency” standard for middle school students being a scale score of at least 220.

### Key Preliminary Findings

- Year 1 of the Texas TechLit Pilot showed an average Scale Score of 216, falling short of the Proficiency Standard of 220.
- Students had the highest module score for Telecommunications and Internet, which may reflect their personal use of technology as a communication tool.
- Just over half of the tested students (59%) who met the Proficiency Standard needed to show proficiency with technology tools and concepts. Thus, many students haven’t acquired the technology knowledge and skills needed to compete in a global society.
- Ten of 17 districts (59%) had an average Scale Score that met or exceeded the proficiency standard of 220, including Jordan MS at 230 in Year 1.

Overall, the State preliminary findings suggest that districts and schools are not providing adequate supports for students’ mastery of technology knowledge and skills.

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## Technology Literacy Assessment in Northside ISD

Northside ISD has prioritized the District objective of expanding our assessment of technology literacy at the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade level, in accordance with the new STaR Chart/NCLB reporting requirements. This was included as an objective in the Technology Services District Improvement Plan and was also a Board and Superintendent goal for this year, *“Expand implementation of online technology literacy assessments to additional middle school students and campuses in order to meet NCLB goals.”*

After discussion with the Middle School Principals, plans were made to test students through 8<sup>th</sup>-grade English classes, with each campus choosing their own 3-day window of time. This testing began at some campuses as early as May 5<sup>th</sup>, and extended to May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Learning.com Technology Literacy assessment was funded through Title II, Part D, which provided for the assessment at the additional 15 campuses who were not part of the TEA Pilot which covered the cost of the Jordan MS assessment.

From these results, the NISD District average proficiency rate is **73%**, indicating students who met or exceeded the scale score of 220. Twelve of our sixteen campuses had an average scale score at or above the proficiency level of 220, with four of this year’s Title I campuses represented in the group who had an average scale score below 220. Further details appear in the attached spreadsheet.

**NCLB/STaR Chart reporting of NISD Tech Literacy at 8th grade, Spring 2009**

<b>Campus Name</b>	<b>07-08 Program</b>	<b>08-09 Program</b>	<b># of Kids Tested</b>	<b># of Kids Passing</b>	<b>% of Kids Proficient</b>	<b>Avg. Scale Score</b>
<i>Jefferson MS</i>	No class	No class	445	409	92%	247
<i>Stinson MS</i>	6th grade class	6th grade class	427	361	85%	241
<i>Stevenson MS</i>	7th grade class	7th grade class	466	382	82%	235
<i>Rawlinson MS</i>	6th grade blended	6th grade blended	425	345	81%	237
<i>Hobby MS</i>	7th grade class	6th grade class	309	247	80%	237
<i>Luna MS</i>	No class	No class	338	264	78%	233
<i>Rudder MS</i>	No class	7th grade class	361	274	76%	230
<i>Vale MS</i>	N/A	No class	362	266	73%	230
<i>Zachry MS</i>	7th grade class	7th grade class	308	222	72%	228
<i>Connally MS</i>	6th grade class	6th grade class	327	232	71%	228
<i>Jordan MS</i>	7th grade class	7th grade class	358	244	68%	225
<i>Neff MS</i>	No class	No class	292	196	67%	223
<i>Rayburn MS</i>	7th grade class	7th grade class	304	192	63%	219
<i>Ross MS</i>	6th grade class	6th grade class	285	172	60%	216
<i>Pease MS</i>	No class	No class	312	164	53%	209
<i>Jones MS</i>	No class	No class	307	157	51%	210
<b>NISD - Districtwide</b>			5626	4127	<b>73%</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>Texas Year 1 Pilot*</b>			3221	1900	<b>59%</b>	<b>216</b>

**Note: Middle School Proficiency Standard is 220**

*\* TEA TechLit Pilot - 17 Schools from: Booker ISD, Buna ISD, Laredo ISD, LaJoya ISD, Ennis ISD, Houston ISD, Northside ISD, New Caney ISD, Humble ISD, Killeen ISD, Lone Oak ISD, Redwater ISD, El Paso ISD, S&S ISD, Sweeny ISD, Timpson ISD, Temple ISD*

