



April 21, 2015

Dear Parents:

This spring, the Houston Independent School District (HISD) is administering the *Iowa Assessments*™ to replace the *Stanford Achievement Test Series*. HISD has used the *Stanford Achievement Test Series* since 1999 and over the past several years the *Stanford Achievement Test Series, 10th Edition (Stanford-10)*. The HISD is adopting the *Iowa Assessments* to replace the *Stanford 10* as the norm-referenced measure to make comparisons to a nationally representative group of students and to assess the progress of student achievement. The *Iowa Assessments* are a comprehensive set of measures that assess student achievement in reading and math as well as other core content areas in Kindergarten through Grade 12. These standardized tests offer a tradition of over 75 years of research excellence and testing innovation. The *Iowa Assessments* are designed to provide a thorough assessment of a student's progress in skills and standards that are essential to successful learning.

As a result of these assessment changes, students in the HISD who took the *Stanford-10* previously and are now taking the *Iowa Assessments* will experience a change in their scale score values (*Stanford-10* and *Iowa Assessments* report on different scale score systems). Because of this, it will be difficult to compare student scores and percentile ranks on the new *Iowa Assessments* with those received in previous years when the student took the *Stanford-10*. As the publisher of the *Iowa Assessments*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt-Riverside (HMH-Riverside) is, therefore, recommending that schools not compare scale scores between the two assessment systems and to exercise caution in comparing percentile ranks. HMH-Riverside will be working with HISD to develop a score concordance between the *Stanford-10* and the *Iowa Assessments* to facilitate comparisons of scale score values; however, care must be taken since these are distinct assessment programs. In subsequent years and administrations, direct comparisons can be made from year to year using the *Iowa Assessments*.

Should you have any questions about the transition to the *Iowa Assessments*, please contact me or Michele Rawson. Houghton Mifflin will be providing schools with a wide range of research information and statistical references that can facilitate a greater understanding of scores and score reports that result from the *Iowa Assessments*.

Sincerely,

Melissa Patin
Principal
Mark Twain Elementary