

ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

THE EFFECT OF MOBILITY ON TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TEST SCORES

By

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This research studies the effects of mobility on the high-stakes test scores of a Title I South Central Texas school district. The study involved 10, 5th-grade elementary feeder school populations graduating to the 6th grade in 3 middle schools. The researcher compared the 1st administration scores of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test scores in spring 2003 with the scores of spring 2004. The purpose was to understand how, if at all, mobility affected the scores.

This study uses all of the 5th-grade population scores ($N = 739$) in the district. The comparison between the TAKS scores of 2003 and 2004 was done on students who left and remained in the district.

The group that left the schools affected the achievement scores of the district; however, the effect depended on whether the group leaving had scores above or below the respective group district average. The data do not support the null hypothesis. There is a significant difference in the student achievement data in the TAKS between 5th and 6th grade in a student group that is highly mobile.