

Frequently Asked Questions on the Texas State Import Utility (Also known as TAKS Connect)

What does this product do? Texas State Import Utility is a utility product that creates an electronic bridge from your state test results into PLATO instructional courseware. An individual student learning prescription designed by experienced instructional designers is generated and assigned according to each student's performance on the real TAKS test.

How does it work? The utility is installed on your Pathways, PWLN (web-delivered) or Client-Hosted PLATO management system and it then reads your confidential student results files from TEA files sent to your district on CD-Rom or downloaded from the testing contractor's website.

What subjects and tests on TAKS have learning paths or prescriptions into PLATO? All grade levels 3-11 and subjects tested on the TAKS are included as part of this product except elementary Social Studies. 12th Graders that are needed to retest may also be enrolled in the system.

Which TAKS report data is used? The report used is the electronic Individual Student Results Files that are sent at no charge to each school district by the testing contractor. The TAKS Coordinator for your district will be familiar with these files. They must be fixed width, flat files and they must not be tampered with in order to work with the utility.

Where will we get this data? Your district receives this after each administration of the regular TAKS test. It is sent at no charge to every school district after each administration as soon as results are released.

Is my student data kept confidential? After the utility is installed, your student data is kept confidential within your own system. No one except those designated for your district will see individual student results.

Can a batch enroll be used? Yes, a batch enroll can be used to save time.

How does the utility product recognize the individual student data? Before batch enrolling, the 9 digit StudentID number or PEIMS number is imported into the PLATO system as the middle name field.

How does TAKS Connect interface with state data? The student prescription into PLATO instructional content is generated by the utility. It is based on the percentage of correct test items every student scores for each TAKS objective. A set mastery score over each TAKS objective is used. The current objective mastery score is 75% for each

objective. Content is prescribed when a student scores below 75% on the items for that objective. Students scoring above 75% are exempted from an assignment for that particular objective.

How does this product save me time? The product enables the instructor to save hundreds of hours that would otherwise be spent in assigning each student a remediation path. 10,000 students can be enrolled and receive a prescription in the system in approximately 30 minutes.

What PLATO courseware does my school need? Your PLATO account manager or representative will keep you current on what courseware is being used in the student prescription or assignment. We make an effort to include the newest, most current titles in this product. The product is renewed after each spring TAKS administration and sent to your campus or district designee in the summer timeframe. The product is shipped as a CD and can be installed according to the information found on this site in the User's Guide.