

From: Aspey, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 11:24 AM
To: Owen, Sue (CMG-Austin)
Subject: Pearson facts follow-up

Hi Sue: I still haven't received your email. I wanted to follow up to our conversation.

NCS Pearson, Inc. (i.e., the testing business), is incorporated in the state of Minnesota and is an entity of the parent company, Pearson plc. As I said on the phone, the parent Pearson plc is based in London and has three businesses: Education, the Financial Times and Penguin. Pearson's North American Education businesses are based in North America. The North American headquarters is in New York City.

In the US, Pearson's North American education businesses employ more than 20,000 people.

Pearson employs three times as many people in the U.S. as it does in the UK.

Pearson is part of the Texas economy, with more than 1,800 full time and more than 2,400 part time workers -- many former educators -- working at Pearson's offices in Austin, Dallas and San Antonio.

Pearson contracts with more than 180 Texas businesses to deliver the Texas assessment system, including 87 women or minority-owned Texas businesses last year.

From: Ewing, Thomas A
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 3:13 PM
To: Owen, Sue (CMG-Austin)
Subject: Re: Your Inquiry about the STARR Program

Sue,

One more clarification. All item development work for STARR is done out of our San Antonio office. None done in NJ.

Sent from Tom Ewing

From: Ewing, Thomas A
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 1:55 PM
To: Owen, Sue (CMG-Austin)

ETS is responsible for certain test development with the STARR program. We do Grades 3-8 Math and Reading and Grade 8 Social Sciences as well as U.S. History, Algebra I, World

Geography, World History, Geometry and Algebra II.

Much of the test development is done in the state of Texas through our San Antonio office although some test development takes place at ETS's headquarters in New Jersey too. We typically assemble test development committees composed of Texas educators and content experts to help us write and create the questions. Once the content is agreed upon and the questions written, we turn them over to our colleagues at Pearson who create the test forms. We review the assembled forms and other quality control responsibilities in cooperation with Pearson but that's pretty much it.

From: Ratcliffe, Debbie
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 4:15 PM
To: Owen, Sue (CMG-Austin)
Subject: RE: test development

Yes, this is current information. They wrote the STAAR tests in conjunction with thousands of Texas educators. The only information I have on Tri Lin is what is listed below.

From: Ratcliffe, [Debbie](#)
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 4:03 PM
To: Owen, Sue (CMG-Austin)
Subject: FW: test development

Here's some additional information that may be helpful.

Pearson has 1,800 Texas-based employees (they do not all work on the Texas contract). Item development for the Texas contract is handled by three subcontractors (all based in Texas).

a) Educational Testing Service (K-12 Education Division, based in San Antonio, TX) --

Reading: grades 3-8

Mathematics: grades 3-8, Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II

Social Studies: grade 8, world geography, world history, U.S. history

b) Lone Star (based in Austin, TX) [HUB] --

Reading: English I, English II, English III

Writing: grades 4, 7, English I, English II, English III

Science: grades 5, 8, biology, chemistry, physics

c) Tri Lin (based in San Antonio, TX) --

Reading (Spanish): grades 3-5

Writing (Spanish): grade 4

Mathematics (Spanish): grades 3-5
Science (Spanish): grade 5

These subcontractors are just the first stage of item development. Once items are drafted, they then go through extensive review and editing by TEA and committees of Texas educators.

From: Ratcliffe, Debbie
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 1:40 PM
To: Owen, Sue (CMG-Austin)
Subject: FW: test development

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/techdigest/yr1011.aspx> I think chapter 2 in this digest gets at what you are looking for. See if this helps. Based on this description, I believe ETS, with a large amount of help from Texas educators, develops the test questions. I've asked our assessment staff to confirm that for me.