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Reform

(continued from page 1)

dent of the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

The first test is scheduled for October. Officials already are predicting 25 percent of 11th graders will fail, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Higher failure rates are expected for blacks and Hispanics, the newspaper said.

Students who fail can take the test three more times during their junior and senior years.

The difficulty of the state's first basic skills test is not questioned.

"It's an easy test. I don't deny that," said Jon Brumley, chairman of

the State Board of Education. "The statistics tell us 25 percent of the children are going to fail an easy test, but we have to start somewhere."

Grading standards will stiffen during the next two years, but Brumley said the state board felt compassion for the students taking the test first.

"To expect instant reform is not fair to children caught up in it. You've got to ask yourself, 'If half the children fail, is that the children's fault or the state's fault?'"

Field tests indicate 84 percent of white students, 48 percent of blacks, and 66 percent of Hispanics will pass the math test in October. The lan-

guage arts portion is expected to be passed by 84 percent of whites, 55 percent of blacks, and 64 percent of Hispanics, according to projections.

Kirby predicts a significant turnaround in the failure rate by May because of remedial work by the schools.

Brumley said the pressure will be on the individual schools to raise their passing rates.

"In a city like Fort Worth, people believe a public education is a public education. That's not true," said Brumley, a Fort Worth resident. "Some schools are better than others, and I think the schools, in effect, are taking the tests."

Teachers and administrators also

must take a competency test, and that is being challenged in court. Some teachers see the test as an insult and an infringement on their lifetime teaching certificates.

Kirby acknowledges that educator morale is at an all-time low, but said, "I have trouble understanding it."

He noted that the Legislature this year gave teachers duty-free lunch and a 45-minute planning period in addition to last year's pay raises and career ladder bonuses.

"Working conditions have improved," said Kirby, although the teacher test and a paperwork burden remain the top complaints of educators.

Parking

(continued from page 1)

"People are parking in fire zones and handicapped spaces, but it is essential that we keep these spaces open," Wiatt said. "And many of those 100 vehicles are being taken from faculty lots."

"It is essential that students stay out of faculty lots. If they don't, they will keep getting ticketed and towed

and that just makes things bad for everyone."

Students legally can park in faculty lots after 4 p.m. and before 6:30 a.m., he said. But many are parking there between 6:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

"Although no (cars parked in) student lots are being ticketed this week, they will be ticketed next week," Wiatt said. "Tickets have

been falling like snowflakes in faculty lots this week though."

The basic parking problems are the same as they always have been, he said.

People want to park right next to where they are going.

"Parking area 71, near the Meat Science Center, has 500 new parking spaces but most of them remain

empty because nobody wants to park there," Wiatt said. "They can take an air-conditioned shuttle bus from that lot to other campus locations."

"We are also trying to get people to use parking area 63 behind Olsen Field. Plenty of parking spaces are available there and the shuttle bus also runs from there."

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