

Policy and Procedure Highlights

For additional information about assessment policies and procedures, refer to the TEA Student Assessment Division website.

Students Receiving Instruction Above Grade Level

Students must be tested at their enrolled grade level unless they are receiving accelerated instruction. If receiving accelerated instruction, students should be administered the STAAR assessment that aligns with the level of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) instruction they are receiving.



Student
Assessment
Division

Changes to Mathematics Assessments

Based on revisions to the mathematics TEKS, the STAAR mathematics assessments are changing for grades 3–8 in spring 2015 to align with the revised TEKS.

- Because new performance standards for STAAR grades 3–8 mathematics will not be set until summer 2015, no SSI retest opportunities for STAAR mathematics at grades 5 and 8 will be offered in 2015. SSI retest opportunities will still be available for reading.
- In spring 2015, districts must ensure that each student has a calculation device with graphing capability to use when taking the STAAR grade 8 mathematics assessment. Districts may satisfy this requirement by providing students with either a handheld graphing calculator or a graphing calculator application available on a tablet.

Changes to Writing Assessments

- In spring 2015, the field-test prompts will be removed from the grade 7 writing and the English I and English II assessments. Instead of being embedded in the operational tests, STAAR prompts will be field-tested in a separate prompt study that will be administered every three years beginning in 2017.
- Images of the grades 4 and 7 compositions and English I and English II essays and short answer responses from the March 2015 STAAR assessments will be provided to districts at no charge. These images will be available along with standard and optional reports for your district.



[Standardized Oral Administration Resources](#)

[STAAR A Resources](#)

[STAAR Alternate 2 Resources](#)

Standardized Oral Administration

Standardized oral administration (SOA) will be expanded in spring 2015 to include grade 5 science and grade 6 mathematics and reading assessments. SOA is now available for the following grades and subjects:

- grade 4 mathematics and reading
- grade 5 science
- grade 6 mathematics and reading
- grade 7 mathematics and reading
- grade 8 science and social studies

STAAR A

STAAR A is an online accommodated version of STAAR. This assessment will provide embedded supports designed to help students with disabilities access the content being assessed. These embedded supports include visual aids, graphic organizers, clarifications of construct-irrelevant terms, and text-to-speech functionality. STAAR A will be available beginning in spring 2015 for students that meet eligibility requirements.

STAAR Alternate 2

House Bill 5, passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature in May 2013, required a redesign of STAAR Alternate. The redesigned assessment, STAAR Alternate 2, is a standardized item-based assessment administered to students in a one-on-one setting. Participating students will respond to questions provided in a test booklet, and answers will be submitted by the test administrator in an online form. The first administration of STAAR Alternate 2 will be in February 2015.

General Program Information

STAAR

The STAAR program includes STAAR, STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, and STAAR A. TEA implemented STAAR to fulfill requirements enacted by the Texas Legislature. STAAR is an assessment designed to measure the extent to which students have learned and are able to apply the knowledge and skills defined in the state-mandated curriculum, the TEKS. One important function of STAAR is to gauge how well schools and teachers are preparing their students academically. The test is specifically designed to measure individual student progress in relation to content that is directly tied to the TEKS. Every STAAR question is directly aligned to the TEKS currently in effect for the grade/subject or course being assessed.

- STAAR grades 3–8 includes assessments of mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies. STAAR EOC assessments are available for Algebra I, English I, English II, biology, and U.S. history.
- STAAR Spanish is available for English language learners (ELLs) in grades 3–5 for whom an assessment in Spanish provides the most appropriate measure of academic progress. STAAR Spanish is available in each subject area assessed by the English version.
- STAAR L is an online linguistically accommodated version of the STAAR grades 3–8 and EOC assessments in mathematics, science, and social studies available for ELLs who meet participation requirements.
- STAAR A is an online accommodated version of the STAAR assessments for students who meet eligibility requirements. STAAR A is available in the same grades/subjects and courses as the STAAR assessments.

STAAR Alternate 2

STAAR Alternate 2 is an assessment based on alternate academic standards and is designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities receiving special education services. STAAR Alternate 2 is administered in the same grades/subjects and courses as the STAAR assessments.

TELPAS

TELPAS assesses the progress that ELLs in K–12 make in acquiring the English language in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



[Assessments for Students with Disabilities](#)

[ELL Resources](#)

[Accommodation Resources](#)

[STAAR Alternate 2 Resources](#)

[TELPAS Resources](#)