

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR[®])
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Knowledge and Skills (TK) is directly aligned to the TEKS currently implemented for the grade/s

7. What are the testing requirements for students in grades 3–8 who are receiving instruction in subjects above their enrolled grade?
These students will be required to take STAAR assessments for the subjects in which they are receiving instruction if an assessment exists. For example, a student in grade 7 who is receiving instruction in grade 8 science would take the STAAR grade 8 science assessment and the STAAR grade 7 mathematics, reading, and writing assessments.
8. What are the testing requirements for students in grades 3–8 who are enrolled in a high school course that has a corresponding STAAR EOC assessment?
Students in grades 3–8 who are enrolled in a high school course will take the corresponding STAAR EOC assessment in place of their grade-level assessment in that subject area. These students must take all other STAAR grade-level assessments. For example, a grade 8 student enrolled in English I will take the STAAR English I assessment as well as the STAAR grade 8 mathematics, science, and social studies assessments.
9. What are the testing requirements for students in grades 3–8 who are enrolled in a high school course that does not have a corresponding STAAR EOC assessment?
- For mathematics, these students would still be required to take their grade-level STAAR assessment since there is not a STAAR EOC assessment to take and because students are required by federal law to be assessed annually in grades 3–8 in mathematics. For example, a grade 8 student enrolled in geometry will take the STAAR grade 8 mathematics assessment (since there is not a STAAR geometry assessment) as well as the other grade 8 assessments.
 - For science, students in grades 5 and 8 would still be required to take their grade-level STAAR assessment if they have not already taken it since students are required by federal law to be assessed in science at least once in elementary and once in middle school.
 - For social studies, students in grade 8 would not be required to take their grade-level assessment (unless they have not taken it yet) since there is no federal requirement to test in social studies.
10. If students in grades 3–8 are receiving above-grade-level instruction (including instruction in a high school level course), are they required to take both the higher level and the enrolled-grade-level assessment in the same content area?
No. Students in grades 3–

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074c.html> or by calling the Curriculum Division of TEA at 512-463-9581.

30. What are the STAAR graduation requirements for students who completed a high school course prior to spring 2012, the first high-stakes administration of STAAR EOC assessments?

A student who is graduating on the Minimum High School Program, the Recommended High School Program, or the Distinguished Achievement Program and who has completed a high school course prior to spring 2012 (e.g., a grade 8 student who completed Algebra I during the 2010–2011 school year or a grade 9 student who completed English I in the first semester of the 2011–2012 school year) is not required to take the corresponding STAAR EOC assessment to fulfill his or her graduation requirement.

31. If a student fails the course but passes the STAAR EOC assessment, is the student required to retest when he or she retakes the course?

No. Once a student passes (meets or exceeds Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance) a STAAR EOC assessment, the student has fulfilled that part of his or her graduation requirement and cannot retest.

32. If a student fails the course and fails the STAAR EOC assessment, does the student have to wait until he or she completes the entire course before retesting?

No. The student has already received instruction in the entire course and is eligible to retest. The district must ensure that the student is provided an opportunity to test to meet his or her graduation requirement each time the assessment is offered.

STAAR Test Administration

33. Which STAAR assessments are offered on paper and which are offered

However, districts must administer English I and English II on the state-assigned days listed on the student assessment testing calendar.

35. What if a student is not able to test on the scheduled date?

STAAR assessments must be administered during specific testing weeks. If a student is not able to test on the scheduled test date, the district should provide an opportunity for the student to test later in the testing week. This is especially important for assessments that are required for grade promotion or for high school graduation.

36. Is there a time limit for STAAR assessments?

Yes. All STAAR assessments have a four-hour time limit with the exception of English I and English II. These two assessments have a five-hour time limit. The time limits were established as the maximum amount of time allowed to complete the assessment, although most students should be able to complete the assessment in less time. Accommodations for extra time or an extra day are available for students who meet eligibility criteria for their use.

Once a student has completed the test, he or she may be dismissed from the testing room and resume normal school activities. More information can be found in the STAAR Time Limits Policies and Procedures document at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/manuals/dccm/>.

37. Are breaks allowed during STAAR assessments?

Yes. Students are allowed to take breaks during the administration of STAAR assessments. Some breaks, such as water and snack breaks, are included in the time limit. Other breaks, such as those needed for medical reasons, may require the test administrator to stop the testing time and restart the time clock when testing resumes. More information can be found in the STAAR Time Limits Policies and Procedures document at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/manuals/dccm/>.

38. Are special test administration procedures or materials allowed?

Yes. During the administration of STAAR assessments, certain test administration procedures, such as small-group administrations, and certain materials, such as scratch paper, may be provided to any student who regularly benefits from the use of these procedures or materials during instruction. A list of allowable procedures and materials is available at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/manuals/dccm/>.

39. Are testing accommodations allowed?

Yes. Accommodations are changes to instructional materials, procedures, or techniques that allow students

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48. What reporting data are available to students and their parents?

A student data portal is available to students and their parents through the Texas Assessment Management System. A student is able to see his or her test results from previous school years. Each student is provided a unique access code to log in to the data portal. The access code is found at the bottom of the student's Confidential Student Report. The student data portal is available at <http://www.TexasAssessment.com>, and there is no charge for students or parents to use it.

Assessments for English Language Learners

49. What testing options are available for English language learners (ELLs)?

Spanish versions of STAAR are available for eligible students in grades 3–5. In addition, STAAR L, a linguistically accommodated version of STAAR, is available for eligible ELLs in grades 3–8 and high school. ELLs not eligible to take STAAR Spanish or STAAR L will take the general STAAR assessments in English but may be eligible to receive certain linguistic accommodations. Language proficiency assessment committees (LPACs) must meet annually to make and document state assessment decisions for ELLs on an individual student basis. More information about the LPAC decision-making process is available on the LPAC Resources webpage at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ell/lpac/>.

50. What is STAAR Spanish?

STAAR Spanish is designed to measure the knowledge and skills of students who receive academic instruction in Spanish and can best demonstrate their learning through a Spanish language assessment. STAAR Spanish assessments include passages and questions for reading and writing that are originally written in Spanish, as well as transadapted questions for mathematics and science. The mathematics and science questions are translated from English and adapted as necessary to ensure cultural and linguistic accessibility. Passages and questions for the reading and writing tests are developed uniquely in the Spanish language so that the Spanish language arts curriculum can be assessed in a more authentic and meaningful manner.

The English and Spanish versions of STAAR have the same test blueprint and assess the same TEKS student expectations. These documents can be found on the STAAR Resources webpage at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/>.

51. What tests are available for STAAR Spanish?

STAAR Spanish is available in mathematics and reading at grades 3–5, writing at grade 4, and science at grade 5 for students whom an assessment in Spanish provides the most appropriate measure of academic progress.

52. What is the passing standard for STAAR Spanish?

Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance is the passing standard for all STAAR Spanish assessments. However, the Level II performance standards have been determined differently for mathematics and science than for reading and writing.

- For mathematics and science, the Level II passing standard for the English-version assessments has been applied to STAAR Spanish, since the Spanish assessments contain questions that have been transadapted from the English assessments.

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