



STAAR™

FOR PARENTS

www.esc13.net/staar



STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENTS OF ACADEMIC READINESS

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is the new state assessment program that begins in spring 2012. STAAR will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) that has been in place since 2003 and includes 12 end-of-course (EOC) assessments.¹

STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENTS UNDER STAAR:				
Grade 3	Reading and Math			
Grade 4	Reading, Math, and Writing			
Grade 5	Reading, Math, and Science			
Grade 6	Reading and Math			
Grade 7	Reading, Math, and Writing			
Grade 8	Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science			
High School	12 End-of-Course Assessments			
	Algebra Geometry Algebra II	English I English II English III	Biology Chemistry Physics	World Geography World History U.S. History

TRANSITION FROM TAKS TO STAAR

The new STAAR™ assessments will be designed to be more difficult than TAKS.

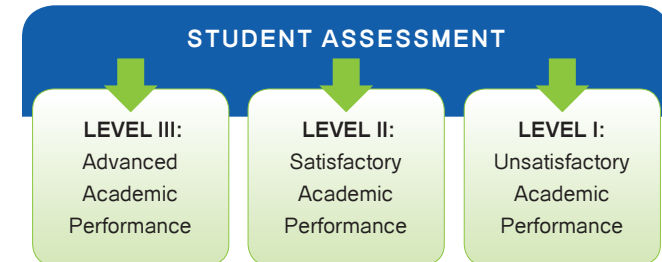
The difficulty level will be increased by:

- having more questions per test
- measuring a higher level of thinking in relation to content skills
- having more items where students will have to write in responses rather than selecting a response from those provided
- focusing more deeply on content taught during the current year rather than testing knowledge and skills learned over multiple years
- measuring readiness for college and career success

¹ mandated by SB 1031 in 2007 and the new grade 3–8 assessments mandated by HB 3 in 2009.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Once students have taken a STAAR assessment they will receive a score indicating their performance. Student performance will fall in to one of the three categories below. More information about student performance and scoring will be available as we transition to the STAAR assessment program.



IMPACT ON GRADE ADVANCEMENT

Students will take STAAR exams for the first time in the spring of the school year. The Student Success Initiative requires that students in grades 5 and 8 pass both the reading and math exams to be promoted to the next grade. For one year (2011-2012), this requirement will not apply, since cut scores will not be established until after the start of the 2012 school year. The requirement will return in the 2012-2013 school year. Students in grades 5 and 8 will once again be required to pass STAAR just like TAKS, before being promoted to the next grade level. High school students may continue to take the exams until they meet the passing standards. Visit with your child's school to learn more about testing.

High School End of Course Assessment Administration Timeline



IMPACT ON GRADUATION

Beginning with the 9th grade class in 2011-2012, students will take up to 12 EOC assessments listed previously based on their participation in courses (schools determine the sequence of courses in a subject area). Currently, each student must meet a score requirement for all EOC assessments they take in order to graduate. Further, the score on each test will be worth 15% of the student's final grade.

RESOURCES

Texas Education Agency, Assessment Resources for Students, Parents, and Out-Of-School Examinees

www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3324&menu_id=793

Texas Education Agency, State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) Resources

www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/

Texas Education Agency, Performance Labels and Policy Definitions

www.tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=2147496801&libID=2147496798

Texas Education Agency, Student Success Initiative (SSI)

www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ssi/

Texas Education Agency, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148

Texas Education Agency, 2010-2011 Side By Side Graduation Programs

www.tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=2147489482&libID=2147489481

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas College Readiness Standards

www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=EADF962E-0E3E-DA80-BAAD2496062F3CD8

ESC Region XIII STAAR Resources

www.esc13.net/staar/resources.html

For more parent resources, please visit:
www.esc13.net/staar/parent_resources.html