

Texas State Required Assessments: Detailed Information

ESSA Public Law 114-95 Section (1112(e)(2)(B))

1. State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®)

The STAAR program is the primary student assessment in Texas.

Component	Information
Subject Matter/Grade	Grades 3-8: Reading Language Arts (RLA), Mathematics. Grades 5 & 8: Science. Grade 8: Social Studies. End-of-Course (EOC): Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, U.S. History. (STAAR Spanish available for RLA, Math, and Science in grades 3-5 for eligible students.)
Purpose	To measure the extent to which students have learned and are able to apply the defined knowledge and skills in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) at each tested grade, subject, or course. It is used for federal and state accountability (A-F ratings) and to inform instructional practices. EOCs are also a high school graduation requirement.
Source of Requirement	State Law: Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.023(a), (c), and (l). Federal Law: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires annual assessment in specific grades/subjects.
Amount of Time	Most STAAR assessments are allotted a four-hour time limit. English I and English II EOCs are allotted a five-hour time limit. (Specific accommodations may adjust this time.)
Schedule	The state sets testing windows . Districts schedule specific dates within these windows. <i>(See current year's schedule)</i>
Dissemination Format	Results are reported to parents via the Texas Assessment Family Portal (online). Districts also release public reports, such as the Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) and Federal Report Card.

2. Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)

Component	Information
Subject Matter/Grade	English Language Proficiency in the domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing (K-12). (TELPAS Alternate is for students with significant cognitive disabilities.)
Purpose	To assess the progress of Emergent Bilingual (EB) students in Texas public schools as they acquire the English language. This fulfills a federal requirement under ESSA and is used for federal and state accountability. The results help the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) make instructional decisions.
Source of Requirement	State Law: Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.056. Federal Law: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires an annual assessment of English language proficiency for all English learners.
Amount of Time	TELPAS is primarily an online assessment with varying time for different sections and grade levels. Reading and Writing components have a time limit, while Listening and Speaking are typically untimed sessions. For Grades 2-12, the Reading and Writing components usually have a single-session time limit.
Schedule	Testing Window: See District Calendar
Dissemination Format	Results are reported to parents via the Texas Assessment Family Portal (online). Proficiency ratings and composite scores are provided.

3. STAAR Alternate 2

Component	Information
Subject Matter/Grade	Academic performance in the same subjects as STAAR (RLA, Math, Science, Social Studies/EOCs) but aligned to the Alternate TEKS (for students with significant cognitive disabilities).
Purpose	To measure the academic progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet the ARD committee-determined eligibility requirements for an alternate assessment. It ensures that all students are included in the state's accountability system as required by federal law.
Source of Requirement	State and Federal Law: Required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as an alternate assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards.
Amount of Time	The test is individually administered and untimed, but the individual test items are short, direct questions and tasks. The test can be administered in multiple sessions over the testing window.
Schedule	See District Calendar
Dissemination Format	Results are reported to parents via the Texas Assessment Family Portal (online). Individual student reports reflect performance on the alternate academic achievement standards.
