



Wichita Falls Independent School District  
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The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), which is the criterion-referenced assessment program that has been in place since 2003. STAAR™ includes the 12 end-of-course (EOC) assessments mandated by SB 1031 in 2007 and the new grade 3–8 assessments mandated by HB 3 in 2009. The new tests will be implemented in the 2011–2012 school year.

- For grades 3-8, tests are in the same grades and subjects as TAKS.
  - Grades 3-8 mathematics
  - Grades 3-8 reading
  - Grades 4 & 7 writing
  - Grades 5 & 8 science
  - Grade 8 social studies
  
- For high school, twelve end-of-course (STAAR EOC) tests will eventually replace the ten grade-level TAKS tests that have been given in grades 9-11.
  
- For the 2011-2012 school year, students entering grade 9 (high school) for the first time will take the STAAR EOC test for the course they are enrolled in:
  - Algebra I, Geometry and/or Algebra II
  - English I, English II and/or English III
  - Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics
  - World Geography, World History and/or U.S. History
  
- For the 2011-2012 school year, students repeating 9<sup>th</sup> grade or enrolled in grades 10 – 11 will continue to take the state mandated TAKS tests. The four subject area tests taken in 11<sup>th</sup> grade are also referred to as Exit Level tests and passing them is a graduation requirement for a Texas public school diploma.

### **Development of STAAR:**

- Follows the test development process posted on the TEA (Texas Education Agency) student assessment website
- Involves educators in focus groups, advisory committees, and item reviews
- Involves higher-educator faculty for EOC assessments
- Includes the Texas High Education Coordinating Board for EOC assessments
- STAAR Assessments will consist of Readiness Standards and Supporting Standards
  - Readiness Standards (will make up 60-65% of the test)
    - 1) Are essential for success in the current grade or course
    - 2) Are important for preparedness for the next grade or course
    - 3) Support college and career readiness
    - 4) Necessitate in-depth instruction
    - 5) Address broad and deep ideas
  - Supporting Standards (will make up 35-40% of the test)
    - 1) May be introduced in the current grade or course and emphasized in a subsequent year
    - 2) May be emphasized in a previous year and reinforced in the current grade or course
    - 3) May play a role in preparing students for the next grade or course but not a central role
    - 4) May address more narrowly defined ideas

### **New features of the STAAR test (different from TAKS):**

- 4-hour time limit (unless an accommodation for extended time has been approved)
- Dyslexia accommodations to include students in grade 3 through high school (EOC tests)
- No proper nouns lists available at any grade for Dyslexia accommodations
- Scorable grade 3 answer documents – no longer answering in their test booklet

### **SSI – Student Success Initiative:**

- Enacted by the 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 1999 and modified by the 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature in 2009, the Student Success Initiative (SSI) grade advancement requirements apply to the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) reading and mathematics tests at grades 5 and 8.
- As specified by these requirements, a student may advance to the next grade level only by passing these tests or by unanimous decision of his or her grade placement committee that the student is likely to perform at grade level after additional instruction.
- The goal of the SSI is to ensure that all students receive the instruction and support they need to be academically successful in reading and mathematics. This effort depends greatly on schools, parents, and community members working in partnership to meet individual student needs.

- Since performance standards will not be established until October 2012, pass/fail performance on the assessments will not be provided.
- There will not be retest opportunities (May and June administrations) in 2011-2012. Retest opportunities will be again during the 2012-2013 school year.
- Districts will use other relevant academic information to make promotion/retention decisions:
  - Recommendation of the student’s teacher
  - Student’s grade in the subject
  - Any other necessary academic information, as determined by the district

**Transition Plan for phase-out of TAKS and phase-in of STAAR:**

	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
<b>GR 3-8</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>
<b>GR 9</b>	<b>STAAR EOC</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>
<b>GR 10</b>	<b>TAKS</b>	<b>STAAR EOC</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>
<b>GR 11</b>	<b>TAKS</b>	<b>TAKS</b>	<b>STAAR EOC</b>	<b>STAAR</b>	<b>STAAR</b>
<b>GR 12 &amp; OOS</b>	<b>TAKS</b>	<b>TAKS</b>	<b>TAKS</b>	<b>STAAR EOC or TAKS</b>	<b>STAAR EOC or TAKS</b>

**For More Information:**

More information regarding the transition from TAKS to STAAR and general information about the Texas state assessments and graduation requirements please refer to the Texas Education Agency websites below:

Texas Education Agency **Student Assessment homepage:**

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/>

Texas Education Agency **STAAR Resources** (the STAAR Update posted 8/16/11 is excellent):

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>

Updated 2011-2012 Texas State Testing Calendar:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/calendars/>

MyDocuments: STAAR Info (Revised 8/22/11)