what’s new in testing?

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If testing were a happy meal...
Changes in Commissioner’s Rules

TAC §101.3011, Implementation and Administration

- Requires districts to use SAT or ACT to meet federal testing requirements for students who take STAAR EOC assessments prior to high school.
- Posted for public comment August 24 through September 24, 2018.
- Proposed effective date is November 25, 2018.
Changes in Commissioner’s Rules

TAC §101.4002, STAAR End-of-Course Substitute Assessments
- Provides updates and clarifications for the use of substitute assessments.
- Proposed posting for public comment is October 19 through November 19, 2018.
- Proposed effective date is January 21, 2019.

TAC §101.3031, Required Test Administration Procedures
- Updates the rule by removing the Security Supplement and adding a Test Security Policy.
- Posting for public comment is planned for October or November.
- Effective date is planned for February 2019.
Graduation Requirements for Former TAKS Examinees

Former students for whom TAKS is a graduation requirement, including former TAAS and TEAMS examinees, may pursue either of the following options to receive a Texas high school diploma.

Request a district decision.

- Contact school district last attended.
- Provide information to see if he or she qualifies to graduate and receive a diploma.
- Refer to TAC §74.1027 for additional information.
- Call the Curriculum Standards and Student Support Division with questions → 512-463-9581.

Achieve satisfactory performance on an alternate assessment.

- Includes SAT, ACT, TSI, and STAAR.
- Refer to TAC §101.4003 for additional information.
- Call the Student Assessment Division with questions → 512-463-9536.
Coding for Former TAKS Examinees

If a former TAKS, TAAS, or TEAMS examinee chooses to take a STAAR test to fulfill his or her assessment graduation requirements, then district staff will need to mark the appropriate bubble on the STAAR answer document.

- English I, English III, and Algebra II cannot be used as an alternate assessment.

- For Algebra I, mark “T” if an eligible examinee is taking this test as an alternate for TAKS, TAAS, or TEAMS mathematics.

- For Biology and U.S. History, mark “T” if an eligible examinee is taking the test as an alternate for TAKS science or social studies, respectively.
If a former TAKS, TAAS, or TEAMS examinee chooses to take a STAAR test to fulfill his or her assessment graduation requirements, then district staff will need to mark the appropriate bubble on the STAAR answer document.

- For English II, mark

  • “T” if an eligible examinee is taking this test as an alternate for TAKS ELA.

  • “R” if an eligible examinee is taking only the reading section of this test as an alternate for TAAS or TEAMS reading.

  • “W” if an eligible examinee is taking only the writing section of this test as an alternate for TAAS writing.

  • “RW” if an eligible examinee is taking both the reading and writing sections of this test as an alternate for TAAS reading and writing.
Stand-alone field test for writing prompts at

- Grade 4 English and Spanish
- Grade 7
- English I
- English II

Administered on paper only during a testing window, February 11–14, 2019.

If campus is selected, need to test all eligible students.
STAAR Writing Prompt Field Test

- No precoded answer documents
  - These three items must be bubbled on the answer document:
    - First and Last Name
    - DOB
    - PEIMS ID
- Revising questions and answers can be read aloud if the student qualifies for oral administration.
- Test administrator directions can be found in TAMS:
  - Click on ? on the top right of the screen
  - Help Documents 3-8
  - #5 Field Test Administrator directions

Testing Calendar

For the 2018–2019 school year, the assessment year will shift from a calendar year to an academic year.
The DCCR - District Campus Coordinator Resources

The DCCM was replaced with the online DCCR.

Paper copies can be ordered from ETS for a fee.

https://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/manuals/dccm/
Test Administrator Manuals

- December 2018 test administrator manual (TAM) is valid for all 2018-2019 school year

- New TELPAS Manual for Raters and Test Administrators - it is now ONE manual

- As they become available, all administration manuals will be posted in the new District and Campus Coordinator Resources
Answer Documents Updates

- LEP field has been expanded to include M3 and M4
- New accommodation codes
- New TAKS/TAAS/TEAMS TESTERS ONLY field, (will no longer require the Agency Use field)
- Test date field has been removed
what’s new

Accessibility Features, Designated Supports, PNP\Ps and Online Tools
STAAR Calculator and Dictionary Policy

- Updated STAAR Calculator and STAAR Dictionary policies available in the new District and Campus Coordinator Resources and the STAAR Resources page.

- STAAR Calculator policy added language to remind districts about device functionality that may compromise the assessment.

- STAAR Dictionary policy allows the use of dictionary applications on a tablet, laptop, or desktop.

- New Dictionary tool for online assessments.
2018-2019 Accessibility Updates

- Recording notes in the margins per student directions has been moved to Basic Transcribing.

- For students taking the STAAR grade 4 writing test online, typing the response is an allowable accessibility feature for any grade 4 student who needs the assistance.

- Scientific and graphing calculators may not be used as a calculation aid for grades 3-7 math and science.

- Beginning with the spring 2019 writing tests, oral administration of revising passages and items on paper tests is allowable.
2018-2019 Accessibility Updates

• The eligibility for English learners (ELs) to receive an oral administration has changed to read, “The student is a current EL and takes a STAAR test in English.”

• Additional online Personal Needs and Preferences (PNPs) and tools available in spring 2019: refreshable braille, signed videos, basic calculator, Spanish with embedded supports, and dictionary tool.

  ▪ Only Unified English Braille (UEB) (contracted and uncontracted) available for STAAR braille tests.

  ▪ STAAR with Embedded Supports Paper Administration Guides include braille instructions. Separate Specific Braille Instructions (SBIs) for content and language supports is no longer needed.
Typing a student’s response to the writing prompt into the online test for any grade 4 student who is taking STAAR writing online and cannot type proficiently:

- Eligibility for Basic Transcribing does NOT need to be determined; however, the procedures for Basic Transcribing MUST be adhered to. The Basic Transcribing policy document can be found on TEA’s Accommodation Resources webpage.
- Students taking the grade 7 writing test, English I, English II, or English III must meet the eligibility requirements for Basic Transcribing if this type of support is needed.
A student may receive this support if served by and ARD or Section 504 committee.

- If a student is an EL with a disability, the decision is made by the ARD committee in conjunction with the student’s LPAC.

Grade-specific eligibility must be met for a student who receives Section 504 or special education services and routinely and effectively uses the support in classroom instruction and testing.
Calculation Aids: Changes for 2019

- Scientific and graphing calculators are no longer listed as allowable Example/Types for 2018-2019.
  - Basic (i.e., four-function) handheld calculator or calculator application, including large-key or speech-output
  - Basic calculator available as an online embedded support on STAAR
  - Abacus or Cranmer modified abacus
  - 0-9 addition grid without special number (e.g., even numbers) indicated
  - Grade-appropriate multiplication grid without special numbers (e.g., perfect squares) indicated

Scientific and graphing calculators were removed from this list of allowables because certain functions on these calculators compromise the assessed curriculum.
Calculation Aids: Changes for 2019

• Beginning with the spring 2019 administration, Basic Calculator will be offered as a new embedded PNP support on STAAR in the grades and subjects listed in the “Assessments” section of designated support document.

• The tool will be available in a practice test in the STAAR Online Testing Platform.
Test Administrator Manuals

Examples of Basic (i.e., Four-Function) Handheld Calculators
Examples of Handheld Calculators that are NOT Basic (i.e., Four-Function)
Content and Language Supports

- A student may receive this support if served by an ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or LPAC committee.
  - If a student is an EL with a disability, the decision is made by the ARD committee in conjunction with the student’s LPAC.
- A student is eligible for this support if the ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or LPAC committee determines he/she uses the support routinely and effectively in classroom instruction and testing.
- Students for whom the LPAC recommends the use of these supports for any reading or writing assessment, may not be considered for reclassification at the end of the school year.

**New for 2019:**
- STAAR Spanish online available with text-to-speech (TTS), Content and Language Supports, Spelling Assistance, basic calculator, and dictionary tool.
- STAAR Spanish with embedded supports paper version available through the Special Paper Administration Process.
New for 2019:
- ASL videos as an online PNP option for STAAR
- For STAAR Spanish online, TTS is offered as a tool for oral reading support
- Beginning spring 2019, the revising passages and revising test questions and answer choices can be read aloud on STAAR and STAAR Spanish PAPER writing assessments. Title page in test booklet will identify revising section.

Change for 2019:
- Student Eligibility Criteria has been clarified for ELs who take the English version of STAAR:
  - “The student is a current EL and takes the English version of STAAR.”
  - A student who is taking a Spanish test may still receive an oral administration if they meet one of the other eligibility criteria.
• Beginning in spring 2019, STAAR Spanish will be offered online with embedded supports available to eligible students.
  ▪ Content and Language Supports
  ▪ Text-to-Speech
  ▪ Spelling Assistance
  ▪ Basic Calculator

• STAAR Spanish with Content and Language Supports available in paper form through special administration request process

• Mini practice test scheduled for late December 2018 release
Dictionary Tool

- Will be available for all students taking the online versions of
  - STAAR grades 3-8 reading
  - STAAR grades 4 and 7 writing
  - STAAR Spanish grades 3-5 reading
  - STAAR Spanish grade 4 writing
  - STAAR English I, II, and III
what's new

STAAR ALT 2
STAAR ALT 2

NEW revised Medical Exception Eligibility Requirements (English and Spanish)

NEW revised No Authentic Academic Response (English and Spanish)

NEW No verification window this year.

NEW Each district is responsible for developing a local schedule for the STAAR Alternate 2 assessments during the designated test administration window specified in the Calendar of Events.

- District or campus coordinator should communicate the schedule that test administrators should follow.
what's new

TELPAS Alternate
The “questions” are called observable behaviors.
  • Each observable behavior describes characteristics that students with significant cognitive disabilities learning English demonstrate as they gain proficiency.
  • Observable behaviors were written and reviewed by educators.

Based on teacher feedback, a notes section will be added to each observable behavior.
  • Educators will be able to take notes throughout the school year.
    ○ However, students may not be evaluated until the assessment window.

TELPAS Resources
## TELPAS Alternate Observable Behaviors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L5. The student:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding the General Meaning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may or may not attend to spoken English when paired with concrete symbols</td>
<td>matches a single spoken content-based word with picture support to an identical picture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This version of the TELPAS Alternate Observable Behaviors is for optional use by teachers to take notes on individual students and should not be used to officially rate eligible students prior to the assessment window.
Testing Calendar

2019-2020
After speaking to TEA, they are recommending moving English II to Wednesday, April 8th if it works for the districts.

**Question:** Do we have to notify TEA if we decided to move English II to Wednesday, April 8th?

**Answer from Kim Ackerman at TEA:**
No, districts do not need to contact TEA if they move English II to April 8th.

**Question:** Will TEA be sending out an email with this information?

**Answer from Kim Ackerman at TEA:**
Yes, we will be sending out this information next week.
Remember... There are many faces of testing.
And plenty of GIFs for the situations we find ourselves in throughout the year.
Contact Information

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