

DATE:	January 27, 2022
SUBJECT:	New Resources to Support the STAAR Redesign
CATEGORY:	Student Assessment
NEXT STEPS:	Share with appropriate staff

The purpose of this communication is to inform superintendents, district and campus administrators, and teachers about the release of updated resources to support the redesign of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®). Note: these changes are NOT being implemented this school year. Implementation takes effect with the 2022–2023 school year.

**STAAR Redesign Overview** ing the state summative assessment with classroom instruction. The STAAR redesign has the following components:

- The incorporation of cross-curricular passages in reading language arts (RLA) tests so that test questions reference topics students have learned in other classes.
- The addition of non-multiple-choice questions that are more like the type of questions teachers ask in class and allow students to express their knowledge in multiple ways.
- The elimination of standalone writing tests in grades 4 and 7 and the incorporation of evidence-based writing in all RLA tests to better support the way that reading and writing are taught.
- The transition to testing fully online enables students with specific learning needs to access a robust suite of accommodations.
- The transition to testing fully online also supports all of the redesign components listed above and provides faster test results that support accelerated learning.

The STAAR redesign webpage -choice questions. To determine the types of non-multiple-choice questions that will appear on the redesigned summative assessments, TEA worked closely with more than 600 educators who participated in focus groups. These non-multiple-choice questions have been rigorously reviewed to ensure that they meet TEA's standards of validity and to ensure alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), grade-level appropriateness, and accessibility requirements. Each question also undergoes a process of review and approval by groups of current Texas educators who verify that students should have the knowledge to answer the question by the end of the school year.

The resources linked below and available on the STAAR redesign webpage allow educators to familiarize themselves with the new question types and how these questions will be scored. The new question type samplers are accessible to educators, students, and families with no login credentials required.

- New question type samplers
- New question type overview by grade and subject
- Scoring and reporting guides
- Updated test blueprints

### **Resources to Support Online Testing and Accommodations**

Beginning with the end-of-course (EOC) administration in December 2022, all students will be required to test online with the exception of students taking STAAR Alternate 2 and those who qualify for a paper test.

#### Special Paper Administration of an Online Test

The [Special Paper Administration of an Online Test Policy](#) provides districts with guidance as to which students may qualify for a special paper administration of a state assessment.

The full policy can be found on the STAAR redesign webpage, and a summary of its key points are noted below.

A student who may qualify for a special paper administration of an online test:

- requires an accommodation that cannot be provided in an online format;
- has a physical limitation that does not allow the student to interact with an online test; or
- is in an educational placement that does not permit the student to access the Internet.

#### TEA Online Testing Infrastructure Matching Grant

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