

LEAs to provide an alternate test date within the testing window to administer an assessment to a student who is absent from school to observe a religious holy day or period of observance on the day a STAAR or STAAR Alternate 2 assessment is administered. When providing the required make-up testing day, LEAs must maintain the security of the assessment to ensure that the assessment content remains valid throughout the testing window.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, limits the number of students in a state who may participate in alternate assessments based on alternate academic achievement standards to no more than one percent. It also requires states who anticipate exceeding one percent to submit a waiver request to USDE requesting permission to exceed the one percent state limit.

Texas has successfully submitted a waiver to exceed the one percent statewide limit for the past five years, except for spring 2020 when tests were cancelled due to COVID. However, there has not been a significant change in the number of students statewide who are assessed with STAAR Alternate 2, ranging from 1.2–1.6 percent.

In December 2022, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) submitted a waiver request to USDE for the number of students statewide who can be assessed with STAAR Alternate 2 for the 2022–23 school year. In March 2023, the USDE denied Texas' waiver request. Since then, the Student Assessment and Special Education Divisions of TEA have been working together on a new plan to update STAAR Alternate 2 documents and trainings to ensure all students are appropriately assessed. As a result, TEA has updated the STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements for the 2828H24eWhiteBijjear, tandfiteBijjear, tandfiteB

Based on feedback from educators, parents, and students, as well as o (I)-4 ()5 (ye)11(e)11 (n)-3ents, and e 2u