



Texas Assessment Program Updates

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

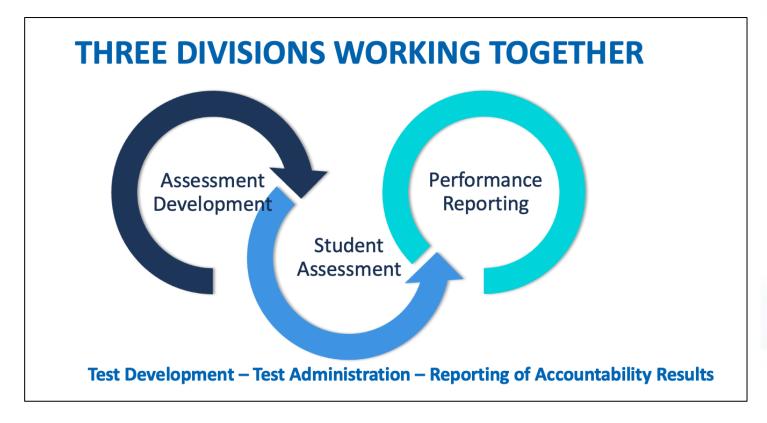
General Testing Requirements

- Assessment Program Updates and Enhancements
- Optional Assessments





Test Development, Administration and Reporting Organizational Structure





Presenters for Today



Andrew Lawver—Director, Test Administration



Julie Cole—Director, Policy and Publications



Karen Mayton—Director, Strategic Initiatives and Operations



José Ríos—Division Director, Student Assessment





STAAR Testing Requirements for Grades 3–8

- All students in grades 3–8 are required to take STAAR.
 - The only exception is for certain unschooled asylees or refugees who meet the requirements in TAC §101.1005.
- Students in grades 3–8 are required by federal and state law to take their grade-level tests.
 - The only exception is for certain accelerated students who meet the requirements in TAC §101.3011.
 - The grade-level testing requirement also applies to students who repeat a grade.

STAAR Testing Requirements for EOC Assessments

Students enrolled in specific high school courses are required by federal and state law to take corresponding STAAR endof-course (EOC) assessments. Example courses include:



Algebra I—03100500



U.S. History—03340100



Biology-03010200



English I—03220100 or English I for Speakers of Other Languages—03200600



English II—03220200 or English II for Speakers of Other Languages—03200700

STAAR Testing Requirements for EOC Assessments (cont.)



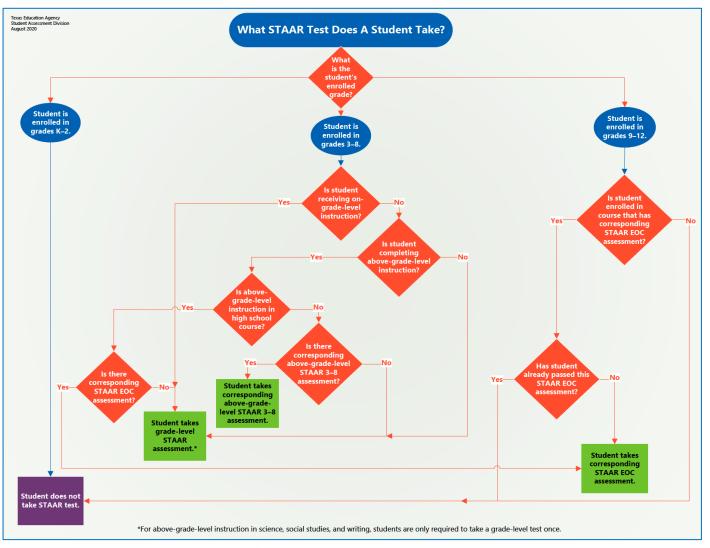
Students should take the STAAR EOC assessment as they are completing the course, regardless of enrolled grade level.



Students should not take and are not eligible to take the assessment if they have completed only half (one semester) of the course.

STAAR Testing Requirements Flowchart

To assist districts with STAAR testing requirements, please see this flowchart posted on the <u>STAAR</u> Resources webpage.



Requirement for Accelerated Testers

- Middle school students who complete STAAR EOC
 assessment requirements in a content area are required to
 take the ACT or the SAT at least once in high school to
 fulfill federal accountability requirements.
- The Performance Reporting Division will generate a list of students who have completed STAAR EOC assessment requirements in a content area before grade 9 and do not have an ACT or SAT score on record.

STAAR Substitute Assessments

- Students at any grade level may choose to use a substitute assessment for a STAAR EOC assessment when they are enrolled in and completing the corresponding course or after they have taken the corresponding course.
- To use a substitute assessment
 - a student must have taken the substitute assessment,
 - the student must have met the required score, and
 - the district must have verified the score.

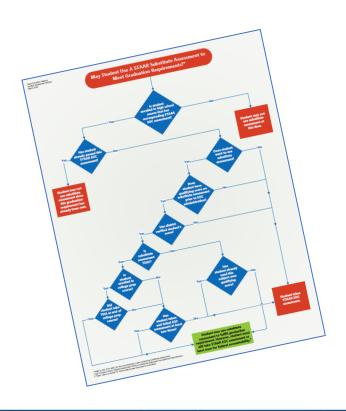
STAAR Substitute Assessments (cont.)

- The use of a qualifying score on a substitute assessment fulfills part of the student's graduation requirement.
- However, the student is still required to take the STAAR EOC assessment to fulfill the district's federal accountability requirements.
- "Take" means a score code of "S" marked in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE).

STAAR Substitute Assessment Requirements

- The following state law outlines the requirements that pertain to STAAR substitute assessments → TEC §39.025.
- The following state rule clarifies the requirements that pertain to STAAR substitute assessments → TAC §101.4002.

 See the <u>STAAR Substitute</u> <u>Assessments Flowchart</u>.



Training Activities in DCCR

TE XAS ASSESSMENT

- Understand responsibilities
- Review resources
- Review TEC and TAC
- Attend training
- Sign test security oath
- Train others

Regional Testing Coordinators

District Testing Coordinators

- Understand responsibilities
- Review resources
- Review TEC and TAC
- Attend training
- Sign test security oath
- Train others

- Understand responsibilities
- Review resources
- Review TEC and TAC
- Attend training
- Sign test security oath
- Train others

Campus Testing
Coordinators

See required topics by testing program in Test Administrator Training Activities section of DCCR.



Assessment Training Requirements

- All testing personnel are required to receive training at least once in test security and administration procedures.
- All testing personnel are responsible for signing a test security oath each year and complying with state assessment requirements.
- Campus testing coordinators are required to receive training annually.
- Campus coordinators may require other campus personnel involved in testing to receive training.
- Annual test administration training is strongly encouraged for all testing personnel, especially for policies and procedures that have changed.

Oath of Test Security and Confidentiality

- Superintendent and Chief Administrative Officer
 - One part before testing begins
 - Accessed and submitted within TIDE
- District Testing Coordinator
 - Two-part, one before testing begins and one by July 31
 - Accessed and submitted within TIDE
- General—All Other Testing Personnel
 - One part before testing begins
 - Fillable PDF that can be printed or saved electronically



Procedural Testing Irregularities

- Less severe, more common, and typically the result of minor deviations from testing procedures
- Can be resolved with minimal impact to students if they are reported immediately.
- Submit Procedural Testing Irregularity form in TIDE
 - Accommodations error
 - Accounting error
 - Eligibility error
 - Monitoring error
 - Training error



Serious Violations of Test Security

- Directly or indirectly assisting students with responses to test questions
- Tampering with student responses
- Falsifying holistic ratings or student responses
- Viewing secure test content before, during, or after an administration unless specifically authorized by TEA
- Discussing or disclosing secure test content or student responses
- Scoring student tests, either formally or informally
- Duplicating, recording, or electronically capturing confidential test content unless specifically authorized by TEA
- Responding to secure test questions
- Fraudulently exempting or preventing a student from participating in the administration of a required state assessment
- Receiving or providing unallowable assistance during calibration activities (e.g., taking notes or sharing answers)
- Encouraging or assisting an individual to engage in the conduct described in the items listed above or in any other serious violation of security and confidentiality
- Failing to report to an appropriate authority that an individual has engaged in or is suspected of engaging in conduct described in the items listed above or in any other serious violation of security and confidentiality
- Failing to implement sufficient procedures to prevent student cheating
- Failing to implement sufficient procedures to prevent alteration of test documents by anyone other than the student



For Serious Testing Violations, Districts...



Must notify TEA as soon as possible of any alleged or suspected serious violation.



Are required to conduct a prompt investigation.

- All necessary evidence is gathered
- Individuals involved are to be interviewed



Must submit a Serious Testing Violation Form and required documentation within 10 days.

Penalties for Serious Test Violations

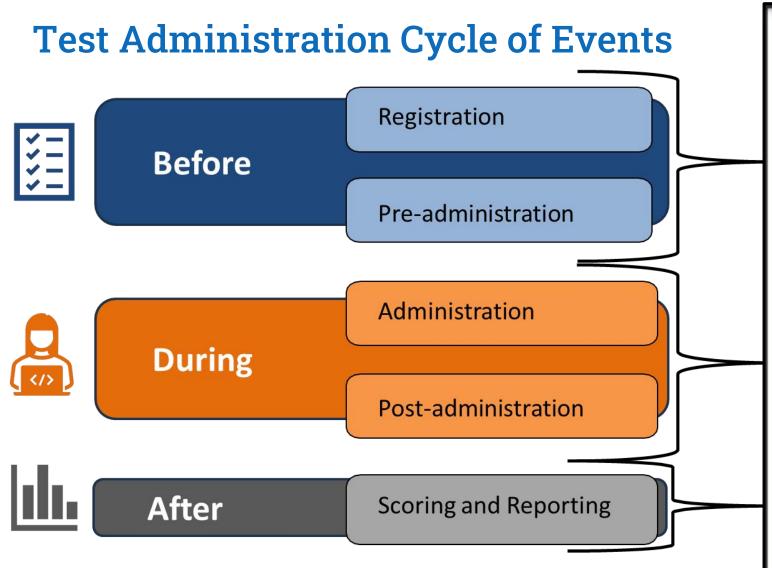
- Referring to SBEC for potential sanctions (e.g., a restriction, reprimand, suspension, or revocation) with a minimum one-year suspension
- Class C misdemeanor
- Invalidating student test results
- Lowering accreditation status or accountability rating
- Charter sanction or revocation

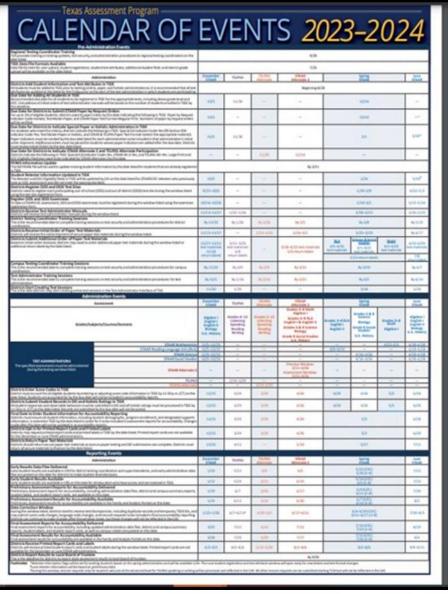




Spring 2023 STAAR Test Administration by the Numbers

2023 Spring Administration (Online and Paper)		All tests were submitted online for scoring. Responses were entered directly in the testing platform (online testers) or into the Data Entry Interface
Reading Language Arts	3,351,980	(DEI) system (paper testers).
Science and Social Studies	2,053,564	Total number of paper tests entered into DEI:
Mathematics	2,717,295	3,753 = 0.046 %
Total	8,122,839	Highest peak concurrency reached: 1,129,362 students





House Bill 1883

- HB 1883 allows a district to consider the dates of religious holy days likely to be observed by their students when establishing
 - District calendars and
 - Days within the testing windows on which students are administered state assessments.
- These are holy days observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code.
- HB 1883 requires districts to provide alternative testing dates (i.e., make-up days) within the window for students who are absent from school on schedule testing dates to observe a religious holy day.

House Bill 1225: Paper by Request

- House Bill (HB) 1225 allows districts to provide paper administrations of STAAR to any student whose parent, guardian, or teacher requests it.
- The number of students who are administered paper by request may not be more than 3% of the total number of eligible students enrolled in the district taking the assessment.
- Refer to the <u>Registration</u> section of the <u>Coordinator</u> <u>Resources</u> for additional information.

House Bill 1225: Paper by Request Registration

- Requests must be submitted to the district by
 - December 1 for spring administration
- Request must be entered in TIDE by
 - December 12 for spring administration



- The student's test record must have the Paper by Request field marked in TIDE.
- The district will need to set the *Test Mode* field to "Paper" and select the specific paper test format (i.e., regular print) in the *Paper Test Format* field.

House Bill 1225: Paper by Request Additional Information

- Students' responses for all paper administrations must be processed in DEI by 11:59 p.m. (CT) on the last day of each testing window.
- The 3% paper by request numbers do not include the students who meet the criteria for a special paper administration.
- There are no changes to the special administration of an online assessment request process from last year.

Special Administration of an Assessment

- TEA will continue to offer special administrations of online assessments.
 - STAAR paper administration
 - TELPAS reading paper administration
 - TELPAS listening, speaking, and writing holistic administrations
- There are no changes to the eligibility requirements:
 - accommodations cannot be applied,
 - unable to participate in one domain of TELPAS, or
 - technology access precluded.
- The student's test record in TIDE must have
 - either the *Special Ed Indicator Code* or the *Section 504 Indicator Code* turned on,
 - the *Test Mode* field set to "Paper", and
 - the specific paper test format set in the *Paper Test Format* field.

STAAR and TELPAS Test Session Time Limit

- There is a <u>maximum</u> allowable testing time of seven hours for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) and Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) assessments.
- Students are expected to complete each STAAR and TELPAS assessment in about three hours; students who are still testing after four hours should be consolidated into a general testing area to continue testing.
- Students must complete the assessment within the same school day, and no test session may exceed seven hours. Exceptions exist for eligible students who have an approved Extra Day accommodation.

ESSA Waiver Denial Notification



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Mike Morath Commissioner of Education Texas Education Agency 1701 North Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78701

Dear Commissioner Morath:

I am writing in response to the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) request on December 21, 2022, for a one-year extension of the State's waiver of section 1111(b)(2)(D)(i)(I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), which stipulates that a State may not assess more than 1.0 percent of all students in the grades assessed using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS). TEA requested this waiver extension because, based on State data for the 2021-2022 school year, TEA has concluded that it will assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in reading/language arts (R/LA), mathematics, and science.

After reviewing TEA's waiver extension request, I am declining to exercise my authority under section 8401(b) of the ESEA to grant a one-year (school year 2022-2023) waiver of section 1111(b)(2)(D)(i)(I) of the ESEA, so that the State may assess more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in R/LA, mathematics, and science using an AA-AAAS. TEA has not demonstrated progress in reducing the AA-AAAS participation rate in R/LA, mathematics, and science between the 2018-2019 and 2021-2022 school years.

If the data reported by TEA are incorrect and the State can demonstrate that it has made progress in reducing the percentage of students taking the AA-AAAS between the 2018-2019 and 2021-2022 school years, TEA may revise its waiver request, consistent with section 8401(b)(4)(B)(ii) of the ESEA, to meet the requirements under 8401(b)(1)(C) and (F) and 34 CFR § 200.6(c)(4)(ii). The revised waiver request must address how the State met the requirements in 34 CFR § 200.6(c)(4), including the requirement to demonstrate substantial progress towards achieving each component of the prior year's plan and timeline. The revised waiver request must be submitted no later than 60 days from the date of this letter.

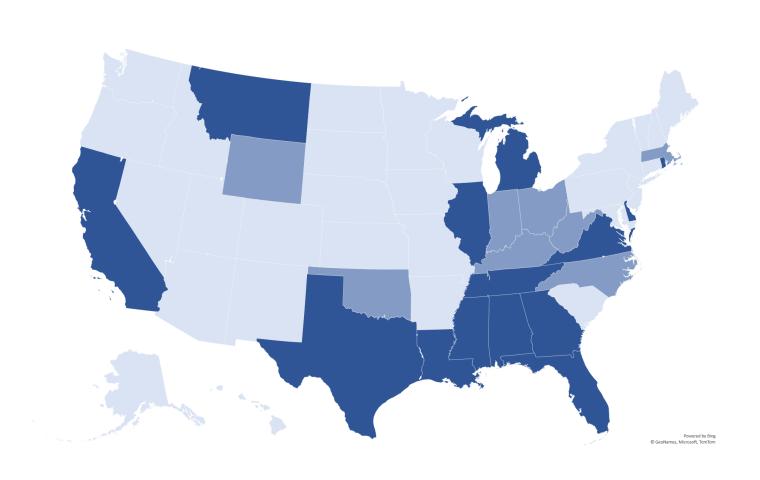
400 MARYLAND AVE SW WASHINGTON DC 20202

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TABLE 1. SPRING 2022 PARTICIPATION IN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT BY SUBJECT			
DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	
STAAR ALTERNATE 2 TESTS, ALL STUDENTS MATHEMATICS	43,270	1.5%	
STAAR TESTS, ALL STUDENTS MATHEMATICS	2,856,986		
STAAR ALTERNATE 2 TESTS, ALL STUDENTS RLA	48,795	1.4%	
STAAR TESTS, ALL STUDENTS RLA	3,537,439		
STAAR ALTERNATE 2 TESTS, ALL STUDENTS SCIENCE	17,842	1.3%	
STAAR TESTS, ALL STUDENTS SCIENCE	1,337,884		

(2023 Texas One Percent Waiver Denial Letter)

USDE Denial by State



In March of 2023, USDE denied the 1% waiver for 14 states (indicated in darker blue) for not making significant progress toward meeting the 1% state limit and/or not testing at least 95% of eligible students.

Eight states saw their waiver approved for making 'significant progress' towards reaching the 1% state limit.

Revised STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements

WHEN AND WHO	WHY
In August 2023, STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements were revised using recommendations and feedback that included the following stakeholders across the state:	 The purpose of revising the participation requirements was to clarify the scope of students that are assessed with STAAR Alternate 2 and satisfy ESSA requirements.
 Special education educators and administrators ESC administrators and specialists Special education advocates TEA Special Populations personnel 	

New Sections in DCCR

- The new <u>Reporting</u> section includes:
 - Descriptions of the types of reports districts receive and how to order them
 - Details regarding reporting events in the Calendar of Events
 - Details on how to ensure teachers can access student results through CRS
 - Details on how to ensure parents can access student results through the Family Portal
 - Details regarding how to interpret assessment reports

This section will include the interpretive guides that were posted separately, keeping all the reporting information in one place.

- We combined several pieces of information into the new Other Testing Scenarios section. It includes:
 - Student Mobility
 - Testing at Alternate Sites
 - Out-of-School and out-of-District Examinees

Coordinator Checklists in DCCR

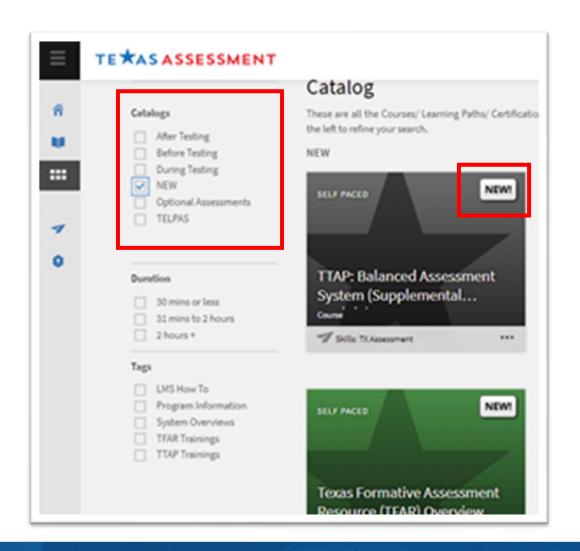


- To assist with training and administration tasks, district and campus testing coordinator checklist are now available in the following sections of the DCCR:
 - Registration
 - Training Activities
 - Online Administrations
 - Paper Administrations
 - Holistic Administrations
 - Complete Administrations
 - Other Testing Scenarios

Learning Management System Organization Updates

 Training Cards have been updated to include a 'NEW!" banner.

 Training have also been 'Cataloged' to allow for easier sorting.



TIDE Enhancement-Student Registration File

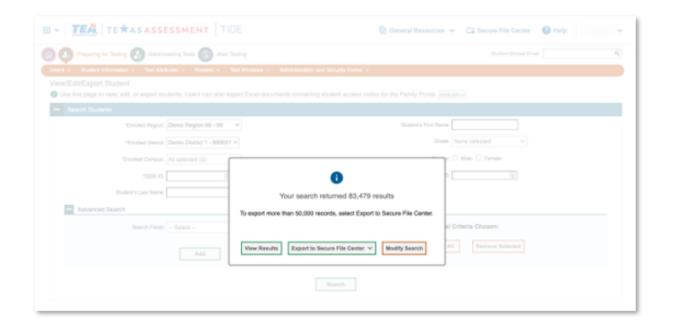
Excel Column	Column Order			Required	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	Acceptable Values				
к	24			No		1 = First enrolled in U.S. schools during part or all of the current school year 2 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 2 school years 3 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 3 school years 4 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 4 school years 5 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 5 school years 6 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 5 school years 6 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 6 or more school years chlank> = database value retained				
	25	Parental Denial Code Excel Column Column Order		No	1	Y = Yes N = No				
				Header Label		Required	Width Limit	Acceptable Values		
z	26	x	24	Years In U.S. School		s No	1	1 = First enrolled in U.S. schools during part or all of the current school year 2 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 2 school years 3 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 3 school years 4 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 4 school years 5 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 5 school years 6 = Has been enrolled in U.S. schools for all or part(s) of 6 or more school years cblank> = database value retained		

- When using the *Upload Student Information* task to upload student information in TIDE, the template will retain previously uploaded values when specific fields are left blank.
- Refer to the <u>Student Registration Upload File Format</u> document on the TIDE Upload File Formats webpage for detailed information on whether this applies to a specific field.
 - If applicable, "<blank> = database value retained" is included as an acceptable value.
 - If not applicable, a blank value will replace the previously submitted information. Districts must validate fields that require yearly updates such as Years in U.S. School and Above Grade-level.

TIDE Enhancement-Student Search Returned Results

 Search results in TIDE will now include more than 20 campuses

 Search results that contain more that 50,000 students will continue to be exported to the Secure File Center



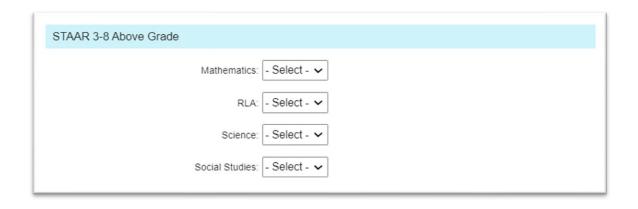
TIDE Enhancement-EOC Previously Passed

 Cambium has loaded historical EOC passing information in TIDE. This will prevent students from selecting specific STAAR EOC assessments in TDS.

 District <u>may</u> edit this field to reflect local determinations



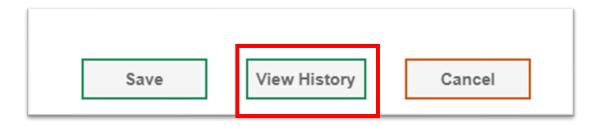
TIDE Enhancement-STAAR 3-8 Above Grade Level

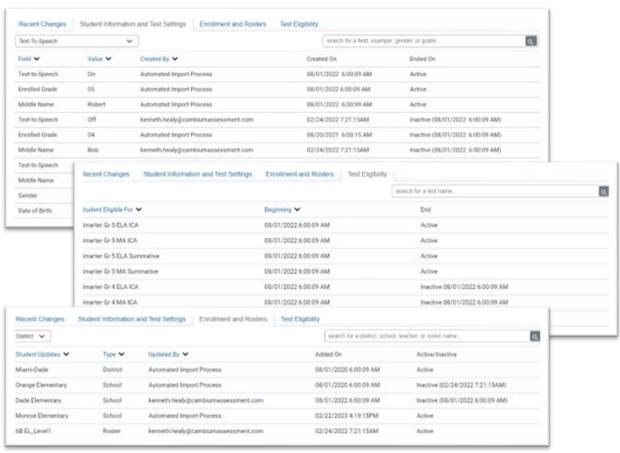


- Above Grade-Level
 - When selected, students will be unable to participate in the assigned grade level test in TDS. Students will only see the applicable Above Grade-Level assessment.
 - Same for EOC. Example: 8th grader taking Algebra. If EOC Eligibility flag is set, the student will only see the Algebra I assessment.

TIDE Enhancements-Student History

Appropriate roles can now view student changes made in TIDE.

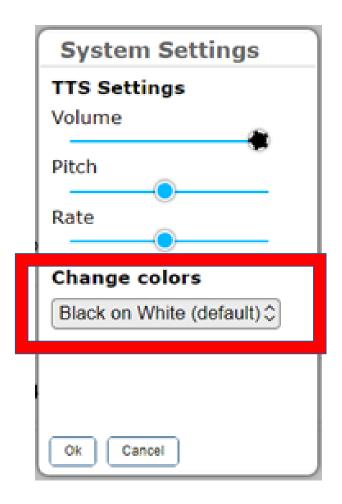




TDS Enhancements-Color Choice

 Color Choice has moved to inside the student interface.

 Students can control color without having to pause and log out.



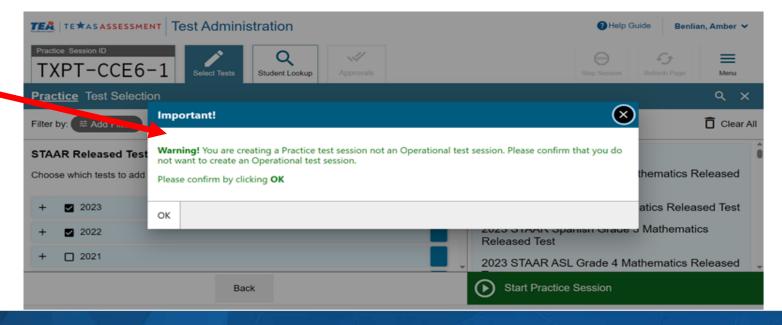
TDS Enhancements-Student Notification

- New 'Warning' message
 - Message will appear after 5 minutes of inactivity.
 - Student will be logged out after 20 minutes.

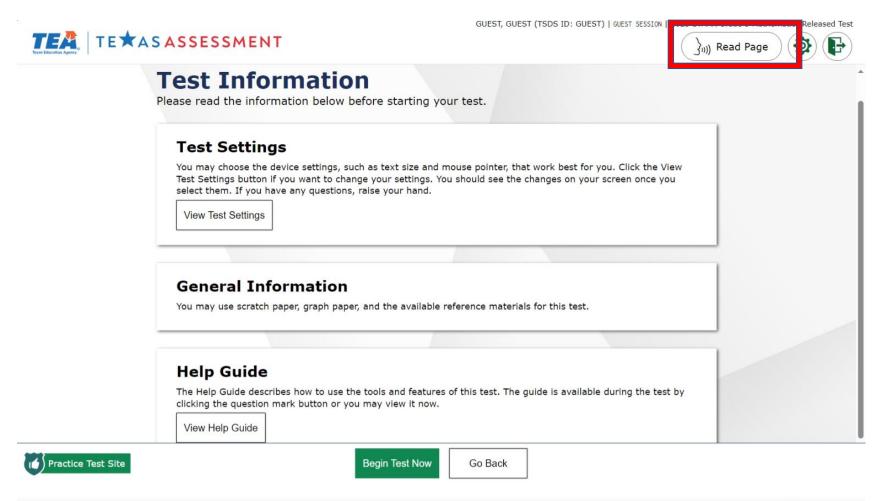


TDS Enhancement-Test Sessions

- To assist districts in adding the appropriate tests to test sessions within the Test Administrator Interface of TDS, we have added a pop-up window.
- When creating a test session, a pop-up window will appear when a practice test or a STAAR Interim Assessment is selected.
- The pop-up
 window will ask
 the user to confirm
 that he or she did
 not want to create
 an operational test
 session.



TDS Enhancement—Pre-test Instructions

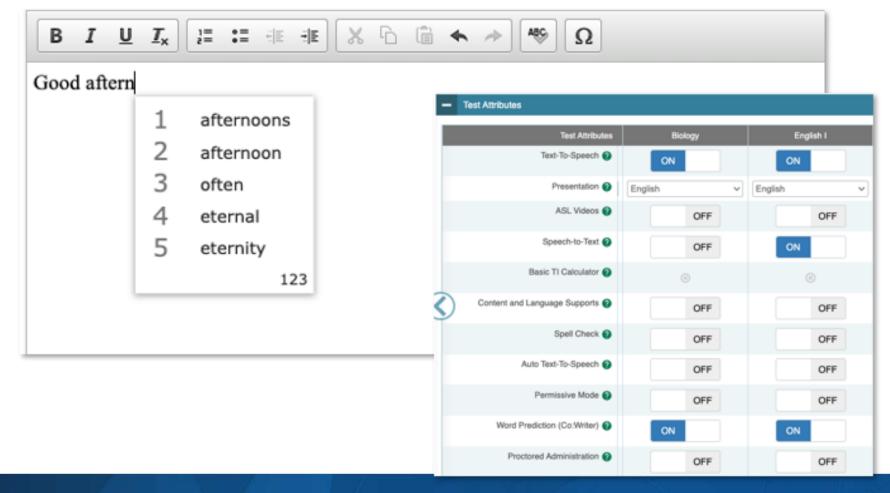


Students who have TTS can now have the pre-test instruction pages read aloud.

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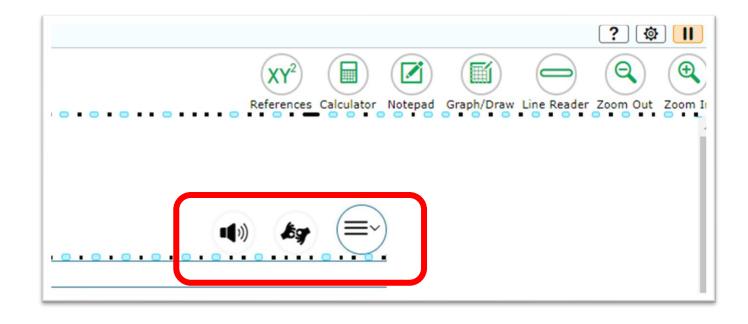
TDS Enhancement – Word Prediction (Co:Writer)

Word
Prediction
(Co:Writer) is
available in
TDS

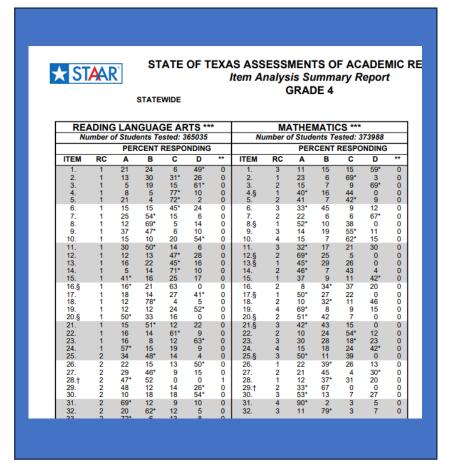


TDS Enhancement-Toolstrip

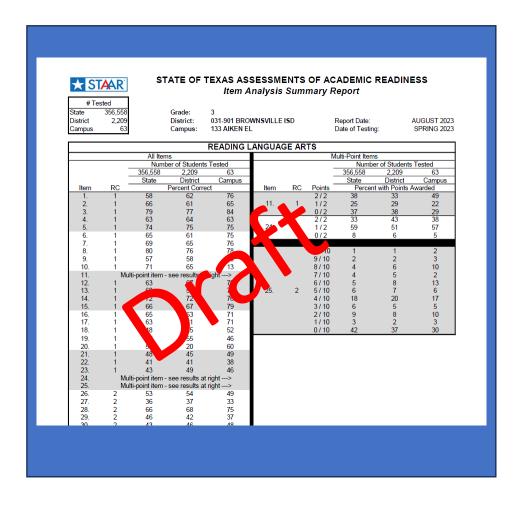
- The Text-to-Speech and ASL Video tool has been removed from the dropdown menu.
- Students now have direct access to these tools in the toolstrip (based on eligibility).



Coming Soon – Item Analysis Summary Report



Based on your feedback -TEA and Cambium are currently developing new item analysis reports.



TEA ensures that the scoring model for constructed-response questions is valid and reliable. We are consistently exploring how to improve the process.

Beginning in December 2023, TEA will implement a hybrid-scoring model that incorporates automated scoring alongside our human expert scorers.



Hybrid scoring is not artificial intelligence



Humans, including Texas educators, will continue to be involved in all parts of the scoring process



Educator committees will give input on how responses should be scored



Humans monitor and adjust the scoring system by checking the reliability of scoring metrics



More information will be available in the next few months





Optional Assessments

1. Diagnostic



What: A test measuring student knowledge and skills on any variety of student expectations

When: Prior to new instructional cycle or school year

Why: To inform instructional plans and curriculum to meet the needs of individual students

Example: Beginning of the year assessments



2. Formative



What: Ongoing process of measuring student performance on specific student expectations

When: Often, throughout the year

Why: To inform instructional choices, student supports, and updates to planning within existing curricular structures

Example: Curricular-embedded tests administered via TFAR, and unit assessments included within high quality instructional materials



3. Interim



What: Measure student performance and understanding against grade-level standards

When: At check-points a few of times a year

Why: To monitor progress, predict summative performance, and guide student groupings for differentiation

Example: STAAR Interim Assessments



TEA Optional Assessment Programs

Tuesday, November 7th @ 3pm

Kalahari Salon F/G





End of School Year









Formative (ongoing)





Formative (ongoing)

TEA Contact Information

For inquiries related to development, Administration, and reporting of state assessments, please contact:

- Student Assessment Help Desk
- **•** (512) 463-9536
- https://tea.Texas.gov/student.assessment/



Texas Educators: TEA Needs Your Input!



- Support student success by serving on an assessment committee.
- Teachers, instructional coaches, content specialists, and administrators play an essential role:
 - Passage Review: reviewing Reading Language Arts (RLA) each test passage.
 - Item Review: reviewing and approving each potential test question.
 - Constructed Response Range-Finding: setting scoring boundaries for essays.
 - Subject-Area Advisory Group providing feedback on subject-area-specific topics.
 - Standard-Setting: establishing cut scores that define performance levels.
- Visit <u>TexasAssessment.gov</u> or <u>https://bit.ly/406DvwE</u> or use the QR code to sign up.



Thank you for everything you do for our Texas students!

General Update - Texas Assessment Program





