



# The Power of TFAR

Presented at:

The Texas Assessment Conference

November 6, 2024

# About the presenters

## Natalyn Samuels

- In education for 24 years
  - Teacher
  - Instructional Coach
  - Campus Testing Coordinator

## Jessica Anderson

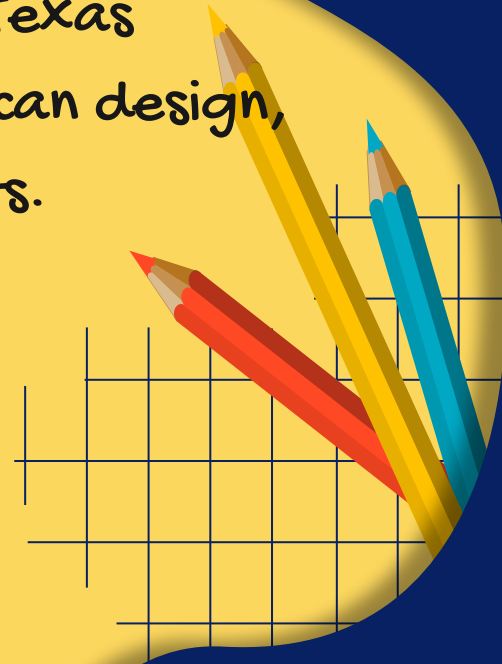
- In education for 9 years
  - Teacher
  - Instructional Coach

# What is TFAR?

TFAR, Texas Formative Assessment Resource, is a free online platform provided by the Texas Assessment Agency where educators can design, give, and share formative assessments.

TFAR contains:

- STAAR Released Questions
- STAAR-like questions
- TEA Item Samplers
- Question banks from other users



# Accessing TFAR

Educators access TFAR via the [texasassessment.gov](https://www.texasassessment.gov) website.

The assessments created in TFAR are administered through the Cambium testing platform, the same platform where students take other State assessments.

The data from assessments created in TFAR is accessed through the Centralized Reporting System (CRS).

**TEA** | TEXAS ASSESSMENT VISIT [TXSCHOOLS.GOV](https://www.txschools.gov)

## Testing Personnel

### Prepare for Testing

<b>SYSTEM</b>  <b>Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)</b> Manage students and users for testing and reporting, order test materials, and track student participation.	<b>SYSTEM</b>  <b>Secure File Center</b> Access shared, user-generated, and system-generated secure files.	<b>INFORMATION</b>  <b>District and Campus Coordinator Resources (DCCR)</b> Administration information for district staff.	<b>INFORMATION</b>  <b>Practice and Released Tests</b> Access practice and released tests to become familiar with question types and the online testing environment.
<b>INFORMATION</b>  <b>Technology Resources</b> Access all the technology resources needed for testing.	<b>SYSTEM</b>  <b>Learning Management System</b> Access trainings on the Texas Assessment Program.	<b>SYSTEM</b>  <b>Texas Formative Assessment Resource (TFAR)</b> Create items, build tests and share content with others.	<b>INFORMATION</b>  <b>Other Testing Resources</b> Find recent communications, OOS/OOD resources, and testing information for the TMIP and private schools.

# TFAR Roles & Access

All educators with a TIDE user account have access to TFAR.

For the purposes of this presentation, we will focus on the following roles:

## District Testing Coordinator (DTC)

Adds all users in TIDE

## Campus Testing Coordinator (CTC)

- Updates access as/if needed
- Create and share tests/activities
- Create sessions in TDS
- Rosters students
- Prints Student Tickets

## Instructional

### Coach

- Train and Plan with teachers
  - Pulls Data Reports
- IC Roles : Teacher (TE); Student Data Assistant (SDA); Campus Report Viewer (CRV)

### Teacher (TE)

- Can create and share tests
- Administer test

Students access the assessments in Cambium using their information from their Testing Ticket.

# Why implement TFAR?

TFAR provides students the opportunity to:

## Practice

Practice in the same platform they use for State assessments

## Familiariz

Familiarize themselves with the features/tools of the platform

## Ease

Test using the same accommodations they will use for State Assessments

These benefits are important because on the actual test day, students are able to focus primarily on the content of the exam, not on navigating the system.

# Why we chose to implement TFAR?

## Support

- 100% online testing

## Confidence

- To build students confidence in taking exams on the computer

## Adjust

- To learn and practice new item types

## Performance

- Needed to shift practice to increase student performance

**Who did we  
implement  
with?**

TFAR was implemented  
with our Algebra 1 team  
and students.

This implementation was  
suggested in response to  
our students low  
performance on the  
Algebra 1 EOC.



# Our Implementation Timeline

**Spring Benchmark with Algebra 1 Retesters**

**March 2022**

Algebra 1:

- Campus Based Assessments
- Stations
- Rapid Review

**October 2023**

**January 2023**

- Campus Based Assessment (retests)
- Rapid Review

**August 2024**

Full Implementation

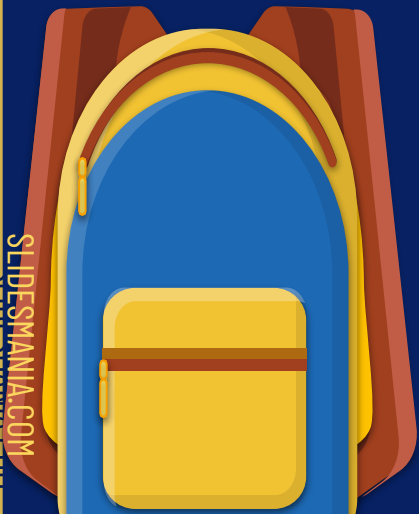
# How did this look in the classroom?

## Set Up

- Review
  - Teacher-Led Stations
- Activities
- Tests

## Materials

- Testing Tickets
- Electronic Device
- Scratch paper



# Impact on Student Performance

## May 2023 vs. May 2024 Algebra 1 EOC

### First-Time Testers

### All Testers

- Algebra 1 EOC scores increased:
  - Approaches by 8%
  - Meets by 5%
  - Masters by 1%

- Algebra 1 EOC scores increased:
  - Approaches by 10%
  - Meets by 4%

Student Performance  
2022-2024

Administration	STAAR					
	Tests Taken	Average Scale Score	Performance Levels			
			Did Not Meet	Approaches and Above	Meets and Above	Masters
Spring 2024	440	3619	42% 183 Tests	58% 257 Tests	10% 44 Tests	1% 6 Tests
Spring 2023	465	3549	52% 242 Tests	48% 223 Tests	6% 29 Tests	1% 6 Tests
Spring 2022	443	3570	54% 240 Tests	46% 203 Tests	18% 80 Tests	7% 30 Tests

# Impact of TFAR on Instruction

- Builds collaboration amongst teachers
- Increases teachers' content knowledge
- Builds knowledge of how standards are tested
- Helps with "backwards planning"
- Improves effectiveness of disaggregating data

# Impact of TFAR on Student Learning

- In addition to growth and achievement, we saw an increase in problem solving skills
  - Reading and Interpreting
  - Paper to computer
  - Step-by-step analysis

# Cons of TFAR

- The Data file is not very user friendly.
  - Very large files
  - Subpopulations and Item Analysis are two separate files
- Timing
  - Be sure to develop an "implementation timeline"
    - Training teachers
    - Developing activities/assessments
    - Rostering Students in TIDE
    - Printing Student Tickets
    - Students accessing the Cambium testing platform

# Helpful TFAR Links

[TFAR FAQs](#)

[TFAR User Tips](#)

[TFAR Educator Guide](#)

[TFAR Padlet](#) (created by other testing personnel)


# TFAR Trainings

([texasassessment.gov](https://texasassessment.gov))

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INFORMATION



**District and Campus Coordinator Resources (DCCR)**

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**Practice and Released Tests**

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**Technology Resources**

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**Learning Management System**

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**Texas Formative Assessment Resource (TFAR)**

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INFORMATION

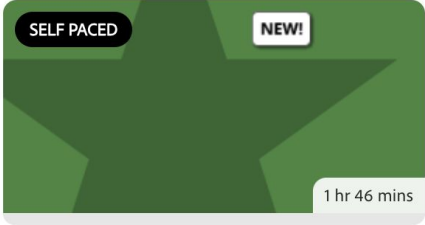


**Other Testing Resources**

Find recent communications, OOS/OOD resources, and testing information for the TMIP and private schools.

SELF PACED

NEW!



1 hr 46 mins

TX Assessment  
**TFAR Authoring**  
by TX Admin

SELF PACED



21 mins

TX Assessment  
**Texas Formative Assessment Resource (TFAR) Overview**  
by TX Admin





# Thank you for joining us!

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