



Texas Formative Assessment Resource (TFAR)

User Interface Update
Fall 2023



The following sections provide an overview of some to the new TFAR User Interface enhancements



Sections

1. New User Interface
2. Removal of TFAR Column in TIDE
3. New Test Templates
4. Miscellaneous updates and reminders

Navigate through the slides for details of these new enhancements

Contact the Student Assessment Help Desk if you have questions about this update.



Section 1: New User Interface

TFAR's new homepage streamlines the process of creating and sharing items and tests

The screenshot displays the TEA Authoring dashboard. At the top left, the TEA logo and 'TEXAS ASSESSMENT' are visible, along with the 'Authoring' page title. On the top right, there are links for 'Secure Inbox (0)', 'Help', and a user profile for 'Wise, Donna'. A navigation bar below the header contains 'Dashboard', 'Items', and 'Tests' tabs, with 'Standards' also visible on the right. The main content area is divided into two columns: 'Item Actions' and 'Test Actions'. The 'Item Actions' column includes a prominent blue button for 'Create New Item' and four white buttons for 'View Items I Created', 'View Shared Libraries', 'Find Items by Standard', and 'View Items Shared with Me'. The 'Test Actions' column features a prominent blue button for 'Create New Test' and a blue button for 'Test Generator Wizard', followed by two white buttons for 'View Tests I Created' and 'Find Tests by Standard'. A 'Manage' section at the bottom left of the main area contains two white buttons: 'My Labels' and 'My Workgroups'. All buttons include a right-pointing chevron icon.

The Cambium 'system switcher' in TFAR is now embedded in the dropdown menu under your name

The image displays two overlapping screenshots of the TEA Authoring interface. The background screenshot shows the main dashboard with a dropdown menu open under the user name 'Wise, Donna'. The dropdown menu lists several systems: TIDE - Test Information Distribution Engine, TA - Test Administration for Interim and Operational Testing, DEI - Data Entry Interface, LMS - Learning Management System, CRS - Centralized Reporting System, and TFAR - Texas Formative Assessment Resources. The TFAR option is highlighted with a red box. The foreground screenshot shows the TEA Authoring dashboard with various action buttons like 'Create New Item', 'Create New Test', and 'Test Generator Wizard'. A red box highlights the user profile area in the top right corner, which includes the user name 'Wise, Donna', a help icon, and the 'SWITCH APPLICATIONS' dropdown menu. This menu lists the same systems as the background screenshot, with 'TFAR - Texas Formative Assessment Resources' highlighted. Below the list, there is a 'Logout' button and the user's role: 'Role: STATE in Texas'.

Workgroup and Label management is now located on the dashboard

The screenshot displays the TEA dashboard interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Dashboard', 'Items', 'Tests', and 'Standards'. The main content area is divided into two columns: 'Item Actions' and 'Test Actions'. The 'Item Actions' column includes a prominent blue button for 'Create New Item' and four white buttons for 'View Items I Created', 'View Shared Libraries', 'Find Items by Standard', and 'View Items Shared with Me'. The 'Test Actions' column includes a prominent blue button for 'Create New Test', a blue button for 'Test Generator Wizard', and two white buttons for 'View Tests I Created' and 'Find Tests by Standard'. At the bottom left, a 'Manage' section is highlighted with a red border, containing two white buttons: 'My Labels' and 'My Workgroups'. The TEA logo is positioned at the bottom center of the page.

Dashboard Items Tests Standards

Item Actions

- Create New Item >
- View Items I Created >
- View Shared Libraries >
- Find Items by Standard >
- View Items Shared with Me >

Test Actions

- Create New Test >
- Test Generator Wizard >
- View Tests I Created >
- Find Tests by Standard >

Manage

- My Labels >
- My Workgroups >

TEA

Item and test tab has easier access to detailed item information

Dashboard **Items** Tests Standards

Show Filters Preview Save as PDF Copy Label Share Restore Archive Delete Create New Item

Sorted by: Date



	Name	Features	Item Type	Grade	Subject	Standard(s)	Created by	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> ... <input type="heart"/>	Item 1535084 <input type="pencil"/> Edit Draft	▼	Multiple Choice/Select	G5	Mathematics	M.5.4.B	Me	7/13/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> ... <input type="heart"/>	Item 1509638 <input type="pencil"/> Edit Draft	▼	✎ ² Edit Task Inline Choice	G5	Social Studies	SS.5.7.C	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> ... <input type="heart"/>	Item 1523373 <input type="pencil"/> Edit Draft	▼	✎ ² 📅 ¹ Edit Task Inline Choice	G9	Science	S.B.2.C	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> ... <input type="heart"/>	DW_DDdrop Map DEMO <input type="pencil"/> Edit Draft	▼	✎ ² Image Drag and Drop	G5	Social Studies	SS.5.7.C	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> ... <input type="heart"/>	Cell part definitions <input type="pencil"/> Edit Draft	▼	✎ ² 📅 ¹ 🗑️ 🔄 Text Drag and Drop	G9	Science	S.B.4	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> ... <input type="heart"/>	Item 1533827 <input type="pencil"/> Edit Draft	▼	✎ ² Simple Text Entry	G8	Science	S.8.11.B	Me	7/12/2023

The ellipsis (...) symbol left of the item and test name opens a menu of actions

Dashboard **Items** Tests Standards

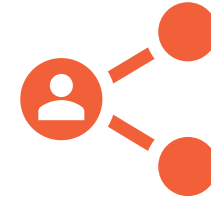
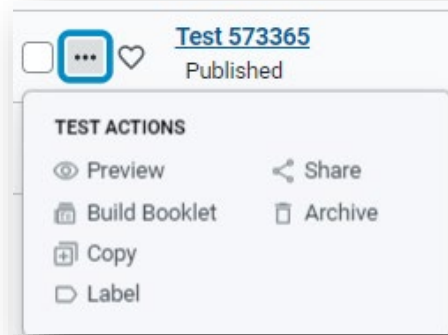
Show Filters Preview Save as PDF Copy Label Share Restore Archive Delete Create New Item

Sorted by: Date

Name	Features	Item Type	Grade	Subject	Standard(s)	Created by	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>  Item 1535084 Edit Draft	▼	Multiple Choice/Select	G5	Mathematics	M.5.4.B	Me	7/13/2023
ITEM ACTIONS	▼	✎ _A 2	G5	Social Studies	SS.5.7.C	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="radio"/> Preview <input type="checkbox"/> Label	▼	✎ _A 2 📅1	G9	Science	S.B.2.C	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> Save as PDF <input type="checkbox"/> Share	▼	✎ _A 2	G5	Social Studies	SS.5.7.C	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy	▼	✎ _A 2	G9	Science	S.B.4	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> Delete	▼	✎ _A 2 📅1 🗑️	G9	Science	S.B.4	Me	7/12/2023
TRANSLATIONS	▼	✎ _A 2	G8	Science	S.8.11.B	Me	7/12/2023
+ Spanish	▼	Simple Text Entry	G8	Science	S.8.11.B	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>  Item 1533827 Edit Draft	▼	✎ _A 2	G8	Science	S.8.11.B	Me	7/12/2023

Sharing is also found within the Item and Test Actions menu

Created items and tests can be shared by selecting the name and then the dropdown menu on the left of the screen.



Sharing capabilities are dependent on your user role in TIDE. Workgroups expand your sharing beyond your campus.

Roles in this column can share with Roles in this row	TE	CTC	DTC/DTC/DCU	RCU/ERS	Workgroup	Institution, i.e., District/Campus
TE	√	√	Only via workgroup	Only via workgroup	√	Only via workgroup
CTC	√	√	Only via workgroup	Only via workgroup	√	Only via workgroup
DTC/DTA/DCU	√	√	√	Only via workgroup	√	√
RCU/ERS	√	√	√	√	√	√

The icon to the right of the name provides easy access to detailed item or test information

Dashboard **Items** Tests Standards

Show Filters Preview Save as PDF Copy Label Share Restore Archive Delete Create New Item

Sorted by: Date

	Name	Features	Item Type	Grade	Subject	Standard(s)	Created by	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Item 1535084 Edit Draft		Multiple Choice/Select	G5	Mathematics	M.5.4.B	Me	7/13/2023
	Languages: EN + ES		Standard: M.5.4.B Parent Standard: M.5.4 Description: represent and solve multi-step problems involving the four operations with whole numbers using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity;					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Item 1509638 Edit Draft	✖️ 2	Edit Task Inline Choice	G5	Social Studies	SS.5.7.C	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	Item 1523373 Edit Draft	✖️ 2 🗂️ 1	Edit Task Inline Choice	G9	Science	S.B.2.C	Me	7/12/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	DW_DDdrop Map_DEMO Edit Draft	✖️ 2	Image Drag and Drop	G5	Social Studies	SS.5.7.C	Me	7/12/2023

Stimulus items are now labeled as 'Item Sets' and identified by the icons in the Features column

The screenshot shows the TEA Item Management interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Dashboard', 'Items', and 'Tests'. Below the navigation bar, there are utility icons for 'Show Filters', 'Preview', 'Save as PDF', 'Copy', 'Label', 'Share', 'Restore', 'Archive', and 'Delete'. A 'Create New Item' button is located in the top right corner. The main content area displays a table of items with columns for Name, Features, Item Type, Grade, Subject, Standard(s), Created by, and Date. The first item, 'Cell part definitions', is highlighted. A callout box points to the 'Features' column of this item, which contains three icons: a flag with 'A', a calendar, and a list icon. The callout box explains the meaning of these icons.

Name	Features	Item Type	Grade	Subject	Standard(s)	Created by	Date
Cell part definitions Draft	🚩 ^A 📅 1 📋	Text Drag and Drop	G9	Science	S.B.4	Me	7/12/2023
ITEM Training Practice_1 Draft							
Item 1509612 Draft							
Item 846656 Draft							

Features: This column may display the following icons:

- 🚩^A This icon indicates that the item is available in multiple languages.
- 📅 This icon indicates how many tests the item has been added to.
- 📋 This icon indicates the item belongs to an item set.

Spanish translation can be accessed and edited through the item actions or under item properties

Dashboard **Items** Tests Standards

Show Filters 1 Preview Save as PDF Copy Label Share Restore Archive Delete Create New Item

Filtered by: Item Set Associations Sorted by: Date

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Features	Item Type	Grade	Subject	Standard(s)	Created by	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cell part definitions Draft	^ XA2 1	Text Drag and Drop	G9	Science	S.B.4	Me	7/12/2023
<p>Description: Cell Parts</p> <p>Associated Item Set: Item 846656</p> <p>Languages: <input type="checkbox"/> EN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES</p>			<p>Standard: S.B.4 Parent Standard: S.B</p> <p>Description: Science concepts. The student knows that cells are the basic structures of all living things with specialized parts that perform specific functions and that viruses are different from cells. The student is expected to:</p>			<p>Linked Tests: Group B Cell</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ITEM Training Practice_1 Draft	▼	Multiple Choice/Select	G4	English Language Arts and Reading	RLA.4.3.C	Me	5/26/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	Item 1509612 Draft	▼	Item Set	G4	English Language Arts and Reading	RLA.4.10.E	Me	5/26/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	Item 846656 Draft	▼	Item Set	G9	Science	S.B.4.A	Me	5/25/2023



Section 2: Removal of TFAR Column in TIDE

The addition of TDS Student View templates no longer requires a separate TFAR Test Attributes column in TIDE

Test Attributes	Reading	Science	Social Studies	TELPAS Reading & Writing	TFAR	U.S. History
ASL Videos	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Auto Text-To-Speech	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Content and Language Supports	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Permissive Mode	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Presentation	English <input type="text"/>	English <input type="text"/>	English <input type="text"/>	English <input type="text"/>	English <input type="text"/>	English <input type="text"/>
Speech-to-Text	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Text-To-Speech	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Basic TI Calculator	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Spelling Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF

The new content specific templates selected in the TDS Student View menu will pull student Test Attributes in TIDE

Test Attributes	Reading	Science	Social Studies	TELPAS Reading & Writing	U.S. History
ASL Videos ?	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	⊘	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Auto Text-To-Speech ?	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	⊘	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Content and Language Supports ?	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	⊘	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Permissive Mode ?	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Presentation ?	English	English	English	English	English
Speech-to-Text ?	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Text-To-Speech ?	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	⊘	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Basic TI Calculator ?	⊘	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	⊘	⊘	⊘
Spelling Assistance ?	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF	⊘	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF



Section 3: New Test Templates

The Test Tools tab under Test Properties allows users to enable resources and specific test tools available to all students

The screenshot displays the 'Test Properties' configuration window for a test item. The 'Test Tools' section is highlighted with a red callout box. The interface includes a sidebar with grade selection (Kindergarten through Grade 12), a 'Keywords' field, a 'Security' section with 'Hide Items in Reports', and the 'Test Tools' section. The 'Test Tools' section has two tabs: 'Test Tools' and 'TDS Student View'. The 'Test Tools' tab is active, showing settings for 'Calculator' (set to 'Off'), 'Enable Periodic Table', 'Enable Thesaurus', 'Enable Dictionary', 'Enable Ruler', and 'Reference Sheet' (set to 'Off'). The background shows a test item titled 'Math_6033' with a diagram of geometric shapes.

Test Properties

Kindergarten
 Grade 1 Grade 5 Grade 9
 Grade 2 Grade 6 Grade 10
 Grade 3 Grade 7 Grade 11
 Grade 4 Grade 8 Grade 12

Keywords

Security

Hide Items in Reports

Test Tools

Test Tools TDS Student View

Calculator

Off

Enable Periodic Table
 Enable Thesaurus
 Enable Dictionary
 Enable Ruler

Reference Sheet

Off

The TDS Student View templates connects the test to the TIDE accommodation attributes and specific STAAR functionalities

The screenshot displays the configuration interface for a test. On the left, the 'Test Properties' sidebar includes sections for Test Name (Generated Test 566482), Description, Grade Level (with 'Use Grades From Items' checked and 'Grade 8' selected), Keywords, Security (Hide Items in Reports), and Test Tools. The 'Test Tools' section is highlighted with a red callout box. The main content area shows a 'Test Tools' tab with 'TDS Student View' selected, and a dropdown menu for 'Selected TDS Student View' with the text 'Select an option...'.

When selecting a STAAR template, students will receive TIDE designated accommodations and STAAR functionality

Subject Specific Templates connects to TIDE attribute column

The screenshot shows the STAAR test interface. On the left, the 'Test Properties' panel is open, displaying 'Grade Level' options from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The 'Use Grades From Items' checkbox is checked. Below the grade levels, a 'Security' dropdown menu is open, showing a list of subject-specific templates such as 'EOC Algebra_I', 'EOC Biology', 'EOC English_I', 'EOC English_II', 'Universal_Math', 'Universal_Reading', 'Universal_Science', 'Universal_SocialStudies', and 'EOC US_History'. A red box highlights this dropdown menu. A blue callout bubble points to it with the text 'Subject Specific Templates connects to TIDE attribute column'. An orange callout bubble points to the 'Security' dropdown with the text 'STAAR Functionalities - 8 Hour Pause - Skip question'. The main test area shows a question titled 'Math_6033' with the text: 'The diagram shows how Stella organized some shapes in a Venn diagram. Which shapes are NOT placed correctly? Select TWO correct answers.' Below the text is a Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'Quadrilaterals' and contains a parallelogram and a pentagon with a right angle symbol. The right circle is labeled 'Shapes with at least 1 right angle' and contains a square, a right triangle, and a trapezoid. The intersection of the two circles contains a square.

The student experience within TFAR is determined by the user's selection in Test Properties and the item source

	Test Tools Tab	TDS View Tab
Pause Rule	20-Minute Pause	8-Hour Pause
TIDE Accommodations	TTS and Auto TTS for Teacher Authored tests (Computer will read everything including stimulus)	Students' TIDE accommodations with STAAR Released items only (TTS, Auto TTS, CLS, STT, Co-writer, ASL)
Reference Sheets, Calculator, Ruler	Manually Selected	Manually Selected
ECR/SCR Text Box and Version Control	No set size	1750 characters / Version Saving
Dictionary, Thesaurus, Periodic Table	Manually Selected	Manually Selected
Highlighter, Line Reader, Zoom, Flag, Note Pad, Stickie Notes, Graphing Overlay	Available	Available

New STAAR ECR/SCR edit tool on Released Tests provides easy access to edits by saving 'versions' during typing

The screenshot displays the STAAR ECR/SCR edit tool interface. At the top left, a blue box contains the number '2'. Below it, the text 'Last, Demo50' and 'Last Saved: 11:01 AM' is visible. A dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Mark for Review', 'Sticky Notes', 'Select Previous Version', and 'Highlight Selection'. A blue callout box points to the 'Select Previous Version' option, which is highlighted in the dropdown. To the right, a modal dialog titled 'Select Previous Version' is shown. It contains a table with three rows: 'Version 3' (highlighted in purple), 'Version 2', and 'Version 1'. The text 'Which primary colors are difficult to see at night?' is associated with Version 3, and a list of instructions is associated with Version 1. At the bottom of the modal, there are 'Cancel' and 'Select' buttons.

2

Last, Demo50 Last Saved: 11:01 AM

Use the information in the passage to write your own **SHORT** experiment.

B I U I_x

Which primary colors are difficult to see at night?
1) Collect information on primary colors.
2) Determine source of 'night' for experiment.

Select Previous Version

Version 3	Which primary colors are difficult to see at night?
Version 2	1) Collect information on primary colors.
Version 1	2) Determine source of 'night' for experiment.

Cancel Select

Remember some test properties require tools and references that are grade or content specific

	Tool/Reference Materials
Ruler	Grades 3-7 only
Graph/Draw Overlay Tool	Math, Science and Social Studies
Punnett Square	Biology EOC WITH Content Language Supports in TIDE
Periodic table	Grade 8
Writing Checklist	Eng I and II EOC WITH Content Language Supports in TIDE

Available supports in TFAR differ slightly between Authored and Released STAAR items when using a template

Embedded Supports	User-Authored Items	Released STAAR Items & Other TEA items
Text-to-Speech	X* ¹	X*
Auto Text-to-Speech	X* ¹	X*
Speech to Text		X*
Content & Language Supports		X*
ASL		X*
ECR/SCR Cowriter	X	X*
Permissive Mode		X*

*These supports must be set in TIDE for eligible students

¹ reads everything

Sharing items or tests with other users now requires users to select final destination

Test Sharing

Sharing Destination

Share in Authoring
Allow other users to see, edit, or publish this test

Share to TDS
Allow other users to administer this test

Find Recipients

Sharing Group
Institution: Demo Renamed Campus 1

Search for Recipients
Individual | te1

Search Results

NAME	EMAIL	ADD
DemoLast, Demo Teacher	TX-te1@demo.user	<input type="checkbox"/>
AFTUser, DoNotDelete	TX-AFT-TE1@demo.user	<input type="checkbox"/>

Test Information

Copy of Dwise_ruler test - Item
Mathematics - G7

Selected Recipients

NAME	EMAIL	VIEW	EDIT	PUB
DemoLast, Demo Teacher	TX-te1@demo.user	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Test Sharing

Sharing Destination

Share in Authoring
Allow other users to see, edit, or publish this test

Share to TDS
Allow other users to administer this test

Find Recipients

Sharing Group
Institution: Demo Renamed Campus 1

Search for Recipients
Workgroup | dwg

Search Results

NAME	EMAIL	ADD
DWG		<input type="checkbox"/>
DWG0126		<input type="checkbox"/>
DWG0130_Admin		<input type="checkbox"/>

Test Information

DW RLA ECR Test with Test Tools only - Item
English Language Arts and Reading - G9

Test Window

07/19/2023 to 07/31/2023

Selected Administrators

NAME	EMAIL	ADMINISTER
DemoLast, DemoFirst1	tx-ctc1@demo.user	<input type="checkbox"/>
DemoLast, Demo Teacher	TX-te1@demo.user	<input type="checkbox"/>
DWG		<input type="checkbox"/>



When sharing, end user permissions depends on which TFAR sharing method is used

End User Conditions to Consider...	Share to TDS	Share to Authoring
IDENTICAL test is given to all students	√	No
SCORES are aggregated together in CRS across ALL test administrations	√	No
Test appears in TDS ONLY	√	No
Share BOTH tests and items	No	√
Shared test/item appears in TFAR (View, Edit, Publish, Copy, or Label depending upon permissions granted)	No	√
Distribute Draft or Published content (View, Edit, or Publish depending on permission granted)	No	√



Section 4: Miscellaneous updates and reminders

TFAR continues to have a detailed and updated searchable online help within the platform

If you are not sure how to do something, just click the  **Help** in the upper right corner or the  button available in multiple places within the TFAR platform.

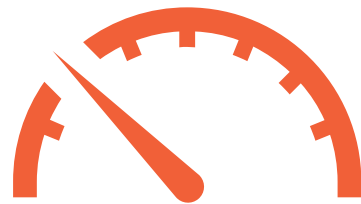
The help content you see will be contextualized based upon your needs on the page. Once in the help system, you can search for additional tips.



Self-paced teacher training available on the Learning Management System (LMS) found on [Texasassessment.gov](https://texasassessment.gov)

The courses include a general overview of the platform and specific tasks to create formative assessment items and tests.

Completing these courses will increase user knowledge and confidence with the platform. It will make the time you spend on TFAR much more effective and enjoyable.



If you need additional assistance with TFAR, please contact the helpdesk

CONTACT INFORMATION

TEA HELPDESK

<https://helpdesk.tea.texas.gov>

CAI HELPDESK

TexasTestingSupport@cambiumassessment.com

Donna Wise Office Hours

<https://bit.ly/4365vSa>

