



Student Assessment Newsletter

Office of Academics

May 2018



Here's the Latest...

New Application for Educator Committees

Thousands of Texas educators have served on one or more Texas Education Agency (TEA) educator committees. These educators include K–12 classroom teachers, higher education representatives, curriculum specialists, administrators, and Education Service Center (ESC) staff. The involvement of Texas education professionals enables TEA to ensure it is fulfilling the needs of students across the state. The educator committees include item reviews, rangefinding, standard setting, advisory, and teacher institutes. Educators can now apply to participate in these committees by using the new Educator Committee Application Form. Most

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[TexasAssessment.com](#)

Contact Us

STUDENT ASSESSMENT
DIVISION

(512) 463-9536
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494
student.assessment@tea.txas.gov

ETS Texas Assessment
Support Center: (855) 333-7770

Pearson Customer Service
Center: (800) 627-0225

educator committees are held in Austin with travel, hotel, and meals provided.

[Application Form](#)

2018 Teacher Institutes

TEA will be conducting teacher institutes again this summer. The institutes will cover reading/language arts, mathematics, and science for grades 3–8 and high school. TEA is encouraging highly-qualified Texas educators to apply. The week-long institutes are currently scheduled to be held in Austin. Week 1 for reading/language arts is currently scheduled July 16–20, and week 2 for mathematics and science is scheduled for July 23–27. Teachers will receive compensation for their work and have their travel, lodging, and meal expenses covered. More specific information about the 2018 Teacher Institutes is coming soon. Use the link below to complete an application to participate in the teacher institutes.

[Application Form](#)

Texas Student Data System

TEA is beginning the necessary research to enable the transition from the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) identification number to the Texas Student Data System (TSDS) unique ID as the unique student identifier for the Texas assessment program. TEA is working with internal departments, ETS, and Pearson to gather all necessary information, design a roll-out plan, and implement this by the 2019–2020 school year. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

From Deb's Desk

Thank you all for your efforts in making my first major testing week in Texas a success! Although there was a small disruption with online testing, it was quickly resolved, and no student responses were lost. We also had some issues with our new phone system. Unfortunately, the new VOIP system is not set up to handle the call volume that we experienced during the April testing week. We have worked with our operations department to alleviate some of the stress on the system; however, it is not able to handle high call volumes and voice messages. Your calls are very important to us. If you are not able to speak to a TEA representative when you call, please leave a voicemail and we will call you back as soon as possible. We have assigned members of the administration team to monitor voicemails and get messages to appropriate team members to help ensure that your needs are addressed quickly. We will have

members of our team onsite at the ETS support center to assist with policy questions and give us more bandwidth in providing you with the assistance you need. I want to thank you for your patience and grace under pressure as agency staff addressed your concerns in April. I look forward to two more successful weeks of testing coming up.

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Test Administration Updates

Change in TELPAS Reporting Dates

Initial standard reports for the 2018 Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) administration will not be available on May 14 as indicated in the 2018 Calendar of Events. Reports will only be available on the final report date, August 15. However, data files will still be available on May 14. The data files will include only raw scores. Updated data files that include scale scores will be available after performance standards are established.

Medical Exemptions for STAAR

With the implementation of the new accountability system in 2018, TEA has developed a new process for indicating a medical exemption from the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®). A student must be absent during the entire testing window in order for the district to use the medical exemption. To ensure that participation rates are not impacted by students who have experienced a significant medical event, the agency will more closely monitor participation rates for schools and districts.

[More Information](#)

Transcribing Student Responses

As a reminder, student responses recorded in the test booklet may be transcribed onto an answer document. This change is a departure from previous years, as well as information in current test administration materials.

[More Information](#)

Technology Enhanced Item Pilot

As a reminder, TEA is introducing technology-enhanced items (TEI) that create more engaging content and allow for demonstration of higher order thinking skills. The agency is piloting a few TEI items during the May 2018 STAAR online administrations for grades 3, 4, 6, and 7

mathematics and reading. The TEI pilot is only available for students testing online and is optional for the students. The TEI pilot, which will include up to five TEI sample questions, will be displayed after the student completes and submits the STAAR online assessment and will not affect the student's score on STAAR.

[More Information](#)

STAAR Report Card Reminder

Electronic versions of STAAR Report Cards will be posted in the STAAR Assessment Management System in accordance with the dates listed in the 2018 Calendar of Events. Printed copies of the STAAR Report Cards for spring 2018 administrations will be sent in June as listed in the 2018 Calendar of Events.

Technology Updates

From ETS:

Functionality for importing test tickets has been changed and will no longer serve to transfer in a student. Beginning with the May 2018 STAAR administrations, districts importing a test ticket will be able to access and print the student test ticket from the test session and group into which the test ticket was imported. However, the student's home county-district-campus number where scores will be reported will not change. Importing the student test ticket will not transfer in the student to the district importing the test ticket. Districts can still transfer in/out students as needed via the student upload, registration, or transfer functionality.

From Pearson:

The TELPAS Online Training Center will go offline for maintenance on July 2. Users can download and save certificates and print scoring summaries before that date. After the training center is taken offline, certificates and scoring summaries will no longer be available.

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Posted Information

Below is a list of documents that have been or will be posted to the Student Assessment Division website:

<http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/>.

- [New Participation Requirements for 2018-2019](#) for STAAR Alternate 2

- [2017-2018 School Year](#) raw score conversion tables for April 2018 STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics and reading
- 2017–2018 Interpreting Assessment Reports (coming soon)
- Calculating the STAAR Progress Measure (coming soon)
- A Parent’s Guide to the STAAR Progress Measure (coming soon)
- Progress Measure Questions and Answers (coming soon)
- STAAR On-Track Measure Questions and Answers (coming soon)

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The Crunch—Upcoming Events and Interesting Numbers

Below is a list of events coming up in the next few months.

Assessments:

- STAAR Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History, May 7–11
- STAAR grades 3, 4, 6 and 7 mathematics and reading, grades 5 and 8 science, grade 8 social studies, Algebra II, and English III, May 14–18
- STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics and reading retests, May 14–18
- STAAR Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History, June 25–29
- STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics and reading retests, June 26–29

Training—Save the Date:

- ESC Training for the 2018–2019 school year, October 3

Here are some interesting numbers from the April 2018 STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics and reading administration.

- 1,705,580—the total number of STAAR tests administered
- 1,595,902—the total number of STAAR tests administered on paper

- 109,678—the total number of STAAR tests administered online
- 17%—the percent increase in the number of online testers from March 2017

Here are some interesting numbers from the 2017–2018 Texas Writing Pilot.

- 16—the number of ESC regions participating
- 72—the number of districts/charter schools participating
- 900—the number of teachers participating
- 30,410—the number of students participating

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The Texas Education Agency will improve outcomes for all public school students in the state by providing leadership, guidance, and support to school systems.



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