

November 19, 2010

Subject: Request for Comments to the 2011–2012 Testing Calendar

TO THE ESC AND DISTRICT TESTING COORDINATOR ADDRESSED:

Please DO NOT reply to this e-mail

This communication is to notify you that the 2011–2012 testing calendar has been revised to reflect current plans for the implementation of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) program. The draft of this calendar has been posted to the Student Assessment Division website (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/calendars/>) for public review. Please provide any comments via e-mail to Test.Calendar@tea.state.tx.us by Friday, December 10, 2010.

To the extent possible, assessment dates and testing windows have been selected to minimize conflicts with religious, state, or national holidays and nationally scheduled examinations, and to provide the least disruptive schedule for districts. The grades and subjects for each assessment program specified are in accordance with state and federal regulations.

As you review this draft calendar, please note the following:

- Reporting dates differ from what districts have experienced in the past. These should be reviewed considering any impact they will have on district and campus operations.
- The calendar includes information for both STAAR and Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAKS) test administrations.
- There will be no fall 2011 administrations of the STAAR EOC assessments. Future plans are to administer the STAAR EOC assessments three times a year—at the end of the fall semester, the end of the spring semester, and after summer school. The first live administration for STAAR EOC is in spring 2012.
- The administration planned for early April 2012 (grades 5 and 8 reading and mathematics, grades 4 and 7 writing, and English I, II, and III) has been moved to the last week in March to avoid a conflict with Good Friday and Passover holidays. It is anticipated that this administration will move back to early April in future years.
- Current plans for STAAR are to offer make-ups for all grades and subjects, not just those used in Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations. Make-ups are sometimes designated for particular days (e.g., English I, grades 4 and 7 writing) and sometimes allowed over several days. Because of initial test development constraints, however, make-ups will not be available for STAAR EOC English II and III in spring 2012. In addition, no make-ups are planned for assessments given during the summer 2012 STAAR EOC administration.
- STAAR EOC assessments are scheduled to occur on specific days from May 7, 2012 through May 17, 2012. Students who are absent on the day of an EOC assessment they are scheduled to take may make it up on any day through Friday, May 18. In addition, optional Saturday make-up days have been included. Saturday, May 12 may be used for students who were absent for a test scheduled for May 7–May 11. Saturday, May 19 may be used for students who were absent for any test scheduled for May 7–May 17.

- STAAR EOC assessments are scheduled for the July administration in such a way as to accommodate all students needing to retest. That is, the scheduling is designed so that a student should not need to retest in assessments offered on the same day. The scheduling also allows for testing to be completed within one week. In future years, it is anticipated that the number of days for fall and summer administrations will need to increase to accommodate all students.
- Current plans for STAAR are to explore policies to provide linguistically accommodated testing for eligible English language learners (ELLs) in all grades and subjects. Specific entries for these administrations are not shown on the calendar. The administrations are planned to occur on the same dates as other STAAR assessments.

As you review this calendar, please keep in mind the implications of any changes that you wish to propose. For example, moving test dates later in the school year can affect the reporting of test results and the timing of subsequent test administrations as well as pose conflicts with other activities such as UIL competitions.

The Texas Education Agency will consider all comments before posting the final 2011–2012 testing calendar. After the final calendar has been posted, the agency will move as quickly as possible to post drafts of the 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 testing calendars.

Thank you for your review. If you have any questions about this information, please call the TEA Student Assessment Division.

Assessment Contact Information

Texas Education Agency

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