

August 15, 2012

To the Administrator Addressed:

Subject: Release of Student Essays for March 2012 STAAR English I Writing

In response to requests for specific information about students' responses to the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) English I writing prompts, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is releasing copies of the literary and expository student essays from the March 2012 administration. The decision to make these essays available to districts has been made to assist educators in preparing students for subsequent administrations and to help target instructional intervention.

On September 17, electronic images of STAAR English I student essays will be provided to school districts in PDF format on the Texas Assessment Management System, delivered through PearsonAccess. This essay service will provide student identification information (PEIMS ID, name, and date of birth), essay scores, and images of student essays at no charge to districts.

This service will be limited to the essays for the March 2012 STAAR English I writing administration. This service will also be provided for the April 2013 STAAR English II writing assessment. During summer 2013, electronic images of students' English II expository and persuasive essays will be posted.

Scoring guides for the literary and expository essays can be found on TEA's website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/writing/>. Districts can use these guides in conjunction with students' essays to ensure that students have the most appropriate and effective instructional intervention.

An e-mail outlining the process for accessing the essay images will be sent to district test coordinators when the images are posted. Please call Pearson's Austin Operations Center at 800-627-0225 if you have any questions about this process. However, if you have questions about the English I writing assessment or the release of students' essays, please call the Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Assessment Contact Information

Texas Education Agency

Department of Assessment and Accountability, Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner

Division of Student Assessment, Gloria Zyskowski, Division Director

(512) 463-9536

studenta@tea.state.tx.us

cc: District Test Coordinators

ESC Test Coordinators