Spring ELL Assessment Update

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Student Assessment Division
Texas Education Agency

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Topics

- LPAC Assessment Decisions
- ELLs and STAAR
- ELL Progress Measure
- TELPAS
- Paper Administrations of TELPAS Reading and STAAR L

LPAC Assessment Decisions

>> Helpful reminders

Reminders

LPACs —

▸ need to meet as a committee to determine the best state assessment option for each ELL

▸ should make assessment decisions as close to the time of the administration of state assessments as possible

▸ are required to make and document assessment decisions in accordance with outlined procedures

Reminders

Assessment options for ELLs

‣ STAAR

‣ STAAR Spanish

‣ STAAR L

‣ STAAR Modified

‣ STAAR Alternate

Reminders

▶ The general STAAR is taken by ELLs and other students who do not meet eligibility criteria to be assessed with STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, STAAR Modified, or STAAR Alternate

▶ LPACs should be aware that —
- STAAR L is available in mathematics, science, and social studies
- STAAR Spanish is available in grades 3–5 only
- ELLs taking general STAAR assessments may be permitted some linguistic accommodations

Reminders

Language of Assessment Decisions

- Must be individual student decisions
- Grade-based or program-based decisions not authorized
- LPAC must consider input from student's teacher(s) in making language of assessment decisions
- STAAR Spanish may be given in grades 3-5 to both ELLs and non-ELLs as long as LPAC determines it to be most appropriate measure of student's academic progress in accordance with TEA guidelines
- Students are not limited to three years of assessment with STAAR Spanish

Reminders

ELL Participation in STAAR Modified and STAAR Alternate

- ELLs receiving special education services who meet requirements for STAAR Modified or STAAR Alternate may take these assessments.
- ELLs participate **only** on basis of disability, not second language acquisition.

Reminders

Sample Forms for Documenting Participation & Accommodation Decisions

▸ Record of STAAR participation and linguistic accommodation decisions

▸ STAAR eligibility for special English I EOC provision

▸ Student history worksheet

Decision-making guides and other LPAC documents can be found on the LPAC Resources webpage at
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/lpac/

ELLs and STAAR

Preparing for the spring

Differing Degrees of Linguistic Accommodation

STAAR (English)	**Limited degree of linguistic accommodation**
STAAR L	**Moderate to substantial degree of linguistic accommodation**
STAAR Modified	**Degree varies in accordance with second language acquisition needs of ELLs who qualify for this test**
STAAR Alternate	**No specified linguistic accommodations; observational, classroom-based assessment design allows other languages and communication methods to be used as needed**

STAAR Spanish: Assessment is provided in student's native language; other linguistic accommodations not applicable.

Linguistic Accommodations – STAAR

Math, Science, Social Studies	Reading, Writing, English I, English II

• Bilingual dictionary
 	
• Extra time (same day)
	• Grades 3–5: Dictionaries of various types*
	
	• Extra time (same day)
	
	• Clarification in English of meaning of
	    • words in writing prompt (applies to all assessments listed above)
	    • words in short-answer reading questions (English I-II only)

*Dictionary access to be provided for all students in grade 6 and up as part of STAAR dictionary policy.

Linguistic Accommodations – STAAR L

Math, Science, Social Studies
• Clarification in English of word meaning*   • Reading aloud of text*   • Bilingual dictionary   • Extra time (same day)

*Provided in online interface

Linguistic Accommodations – STAAR Modified

Math, Science, Social Studies	Reading, Writing, English I, English II
• Clarification in English of word meaning	• Clarification in English of word meaning
• Oral translation*	• Oral translation*
• Reading aloud of text	• Reading aloud of eligible text
• Bilingual dictionary	• Dictionaries of various types (grades 3–5)**
• Bilingual glossary*	
• Extra time (same day)	• Extra time (same day)

*Unique to STAAR Modified
**Dictionary access to be provided for all students in grade 6 and up.

Dictionaries

Two sources for dictionary policies for ELLs taking STAAR:

- **STAAR dictionary policy**
  - Applies to reading and writing assessments in grade 6 and above
  - Available at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/reading/

- ***Linguistic Accommodations for ELLs Participating in the STAAR Program* guide**

  - Outlines policies for the use of dictionaries on all other tests not covered under the STAAR dictionary policy
  - Available at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/accommodations/

Special English I EOC Provision TAC §101.1007

For ELLs who —

▸ have been enrolled in U.S. schools 3 years or less (5 or less if qualifying unschooled asylee/refugee), *and*

▸ have not yet attained TELPAS advanced high reading rating

Why this provision? In English I and ESOL I courses, these students may require substantial instructional scaffolding and linguistic adaptation not feasible on standardized language arts assessments.

Special Provision

▸ When enrolled in English I/ESOL I course, eligible ELL shall not be required to retake assessment each time it is administered if student passes course but does not meet passing standard on assessment.

NOTE:
- **Students are not exempt from testing while in the course.**
- **Provisions do not apply to English II.**

STAAR L and SSI

▸ Beginning in 2013–2014, 5th and 8th grade students assessed with STAAR L in mathematics will be held to same SSI requirements for both mathematics and reading, including retesting and automatic retention, as students taking the general STAAR assessments.

Exemption for Qualifying Asylees and Refugees

▶ Amendment to 19 TAC §101.1005 allows for the exemption of certain qualifying ELL asylees and refugees from being administered a STAAR assessment in grades 3–8.

▶ This exemption only applies to those unschooled asylees and refugees in their **first** year in U.S. schools.

Planning for Test Administrations

Coordination Between LPAC and Testing Coordinators

▶ Testing coordinators should coordinate with LPAC to obtain participation and accommodation decisions in time to make testing arrangements.

▶ Linguistic accommodations not just for STAAR L

Organizing Test Administrations

DCCM, pp. S−27 and S−33

▶ In some cases, students taking different assessments may be grouped across programs, grades, and subject areas/courses.

　◦ Example: STAAR and STAAR L

Organizing Test Administrations

DCCM, pp. S-27 and S-33

▸ Students receiving certain accommodations may need to be tested in a separate setting to eliminate distractions to other students and to ensure the confidentiality of the test.

▸ A bilingual teacher may be permitted to administer STAAR in English to English-dominant ELLs and STAAR in Spanish to Spanish-dominant ELLs in the same test session.

STAAR, STAAR L, and STAAR Modified

Extra Time (Same Day) as a Linguistic Accommodation

- ▸ Permitted for any ELL if student meets eligibility criteria as determined by LPAC
- ▸ Not "automatic"
- ▸ Extra time *within regularly scheduled school day only*
- ▸ Schools with both morning and afternoon test sessions must include these students in morning session.

STAAR and STAAR Modified

Linguistic Accommodations Provided by Test Administrator

▶ Examples
  ◦ Clarification in English of word meaning in writing prompts (STAAR)
  ◦ Clarification in English of word meaning in short answer reading questions (STAAR)
  ◦ Clarification in English of word meaning (STAAR Modified)
  ◦ Oral translation (STAAR Modified)
▶ Require additional training for test administrators
▶ Individual or small group administrations are necessary for some accommodations.

STAAR L Online Test Administrations

▶ District and campus coordinators, in conjunction with technology staff, will need to follow steps to prepare for, conduct, and complete online testing.

▶ Technology staff must be available for assistance during test administration.

STAAR L Online Test Administrations

- Ensure that there is one pair of headphones per student for administrations of STAAR L in which multiple students are tested in the same room (STAAR L online interface allows students to hear words read aloud).

- Keep in mind that students taking STAAR L online may be eligible to use a bilingual dictionary and/or receive extra time.

STAAR L Online Test Administrations

▶ Districts have the option of logging in students in grades 3–5 or allowing students to do it themselves.

▶ All STAAR L tests contain 3 test administrator-guided sample questions to familiarize students with linguistic accommodation tools available in interface.

▶ Remember, the best way to prepare students for testing in the STAAR L interface is to have them complete the online tutorial.

Recording Linguistic Accommodations for Online Tests

STAAR EOC and STAAR L Grades 3–8 and EOC

- Linguistic accommodations to be recorded along with other applicable accommodations on the **Student Test Details screen** in the **Assessment Management System.**
  - STAAR test administrator manuals include instructions for how to record this in the online system.
  - Can only be recorded after student has completed test.

General Guideline for Recording Linguistic Accommodations

Whether the student tested on paper or online, record linguistic accommodations if these were predetermined by the LPAC and made available to the student during testing, even if the student did not use the accommodation.

Linguistic Accommodations Reminder

ELLs for whom the LPAC assigns linguistic accommodations on a STAAR reading, writing or English EOC assessment may not be considered for program exit at the end of that school year.

Recording Asylee/Refugee Information

- Information about qualifying unschooled ELL asylees and refugees will be collected as part of the **data collection for TELPAS**.
- This information is **necessary to exclude eligible students' STAAR results** from state accountability ratings and will NOT be gathered during STAAR data collection.

Preparing ELLs for Testing with Linguistic Accommodations

▶ In training test administrators with ELLs in their sessions, make sure to review this section of test administrator manuals.

▶ Administration "**SAY**" directions assume ELLs have been told in advance

  ◦ how their sessions will be conducted

  ◦ what type of accommodations they may receive

Helping ELLs Understand Test Directions

▸ For all tests, ELLs may be helped to understand "**SAY**" directions and test booklet directions that introduce test sections or item formats. Test administrator is allowed to:
  ◦ paraphrase
  ◦ translate
  ◦ repeat
  ◦ read directions aloud

▸ Test administrator is **not** allowed to add directions that are substantively different (no pointers, no test-taking strategies, etc.).

▸ With the exception of STAAR L, STAAR tests have no sample items; familiarize new ELLs with item formats ahead of time using released items on TEA website.

Affective Needs of ELLs

Recently Arrived ELLs

▸ Meeting affective needs of ELLs who are new to the U.S. is important in instruction and testing.

▸ Help new ELLs look at first year of test results as good information to use in setting and meeting goals for following year.

All ELLs

▸ Encourage practices that involve all ELLs in setting and reaching goals for English acquisition and academic achievement.

Assessing New Immigrants Who Know Little English

▸ In isolated situations in which completing an assessment is not in the best interest of student (e.g., newly arrived ELL who knows too little English), campus coordinator, with other appropriate personnel, may decide to submit test for scoring without requiring student to complete test.

▸ Circumstances should be documented and communicated to student's parents after test administration.

ELLs with Parental Denials
TAC §101.1005 (f)

These students are not eligible for special ELL assessment, accommodation, or accountability provisions —

- no testing in Spanish
- no linguistic accommodations during testing
- no English I EOC special provision
- no unschooled asylee/refugee provisions

STAAR L Online Student Tutorials

▸ Available in early February

▸ Minor updates to grades 3-8; updates to EOC version to address assessment changes from HB 5

  ◦ http://www.TexasAssessment.com/STAARL-tutorials and

  ◦ http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/staarl/

▸ Administration directions will also be posted.

▸ Tutorials should be used to familiarize students with clarification and read aloud accommodations and standard TestNav tools.

▸ Test administration directions for 2014 STAAR L assessments will assume some familiarity with online interface.

STAAR L Practice Sets

▶ Available in February

▶ Practice sets will consist of approximately 25 items for each STAAR L assessment.

▶ Can be accessed from

　◦ http://www.TexasAssessment.com/STAARL-PracticeSets and

　◦ http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/staarl/

▶ Will be available in online format so that students may experience the items as they will be presented in the operational administration

TEA-Developed Training Materials

▶ PowerPoint training to assist in training test administrators

  ◦ *Training on Linguistic Accommodations for the STAAR Program* has been updated for spring 2014

▶ Will be available on the STAAR L Resources webpage at

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/staarl/

ELL Policy Resources

▶ Test participation
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/lpac/

  ◦ STAAR
  ◦ TAKS
  ◦ TELPAS

▶ Accommodations
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/accommodations/

  ◦ Linguistic accommodations
  ◦ Accommodations related to disabilities

ELL Progress Measure

ELL Progress Measure

▸ In 2014, ELL progress measure to be used for accountability purposes and reported in the teacher, student, and analytic reporting portals using new domain weights and revised TELPAS standards

ELL Progress Measure

▸ Resource currently posted
  ◦ *Understanding the Texas English Language Learner (ELL) Progress Measure* (in English and Spanish)
    · Short document containing general questions and answers about the ELL progress measure
▸ Other resources to be posted soon
  ◦ More detailed question and answer document
  ◦ Flowchart to demonstrate how students are assigned a plan
  ◦ Cut score expectation table

TELPAS

» Preparing for spring assessment activities

TELPAS Changes

▶ New standards were set for TELPAS reading.

  ◦ Standards were adjusted to meet the new definition of grade level-appropriate that accompanies the increased rigor of STAAR.

▶ Domain weights have shifted in composite score calculations. Reading is now 50% of the total, writing is 30%, and listening and speaking are each weighted 10% respectively.

There are several documents currently available on the ELL Assessments webpage at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/
- Changes to TELPAS for 2014
- TELPAS Standards Review Q&A (in English and Spanish)

Years in US Schools Data Collection Changes

- Beginning with calculations made and reported in 2014, students must be enrolled for 60 consecutive school days in a school year for that year to count as a year in US schools.

- The updated years in US schools document will be available on the LPAC Resources webpage at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/lpac/

Data Collection Information

▸ Required data collection for ELLs with extenuating circumstances:
  ◦ Unschooled ELL asylees/refugees
  ◦ Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)
▸ These data can be submitted and updated through the Student Data Upload process.
▸ These data can also be entered on the TELPAS Student Registration Details page of the Assessment Management System.

Other Changes

▶ TELPAS reading test administrators will sign the general oath after security training

- There is no longer a separate reading test administrator oath
- Coordinators must ensure that reading test administrators get TELPAS-specific training if necessary

▶ Change to testing irregularities

- Sharing answers to the online calibration activities or practice rating activities from the online training center is now classified as a serious irregularity
- Coordinators must ensure raters are aware of the agreement statements that they must accept before completing online training courses and calibration activities

Key Dates for Holistically Rated Components

Date	Activity
1/13	Assembling and Verifying Grades 2–12 Writing Collections Course available
1/24	End date for district coordinator training—all TELPAS components
1/27	Online basic training courses for new K–1 and 2–12 raters available
1/27	Supplemental support provider recorded Web-based training available
2/7	End date for campus coordinator training—holistically assessed components
2/17	End date for training raters and verifiers on administration procedures
2/17	Earliest eligibility date for TELPAS writing samples
2/17	Calibration window opens for new and returning raters—first 2 sets
2/26	Third and final calibration set available
3/17–4/9	TELPAS assessment window

Reminders

Important to Emphasize

- Holistic rating training is key.
- Individuals must **complete** state-required training and calibration activities to be raters.
- Those who complete all requirements but don't successfully calibrate by end of set 3 may be raters if district chooses, **but** districts must provide rating support in manner that assures valid and reliable assessment.
- Returning raters who have not completed **any** rater training within the last three school years are required to complete the online basic training course before calibrating.
- Implement validity and reliability checks **during testing window**.

TrainingCenter Enhancement

User Lookup Tool

▸ Coordinators and assistants with administrative access can
- ◦ modify the last name of a user.
- ◦ send a user password reset email.
- ◦ NEW modify the email address of a user.
- ◦ retrieve an email address associated with a user's TrainingCenter account.
- ◦ retrieve a username associated with a user's TrainingCenter account.
- ◦ see account status (active/deactivated) for all users.

TrainingCenter Enhancement

Holistic Rating Training Report Enhancement

▶ At-a-Glance report has been updated to include the amount of time raters spent in each calibration set completed.

TELPAS Submission in Assessment Management System

▶ Student data consisting of student identification, demographic, and program information

▶ TELPAS assessment information including students' answers to reading tests for grades 2–12 and holistic rating information

NOTE: If a student has been approved to take a paper administration of the grades 2–12 TELPAS reading tests, all holistic ratings, reading test information (including student responses), and other student information must be entered into the Assessment Management System. This information will not be submitted on a paper answer document.

TELPAS Submission in Assessment Management System

▸ A student approved by TEA to take a paper TELPAS reading test will need to be placed in a TELPAS rating entry group so that holistic ratings and other rater information can be entered online.

▸ A student approved by TEA to take a paper TELPAS reading test will need to be placed in an online test session so that responses to test questions can be transcribed into a special online form.

Final Data Verification Window

▶ Assessment window closes Wednesday, April 9
▶ Verification window closes Friday, April 11

NOTE: The verification window will end at 7 p.m. (CT) on Friday, April 11.

TELPAS Student Tutorials

▶ As in the past, tutorials are separate from tests.

▶ Recommended for students new to TELPAS
  ◦ Several different test item formats
  ◦ Since no sample items with test, practice with item formats and online interface is useful

▶ Tutorials available at http://www.TexasAssessment.com/TELPAS-tutorials

TELPAS Resources

- District and Campus Coordinator Manual
- Coordinator Manual Resources Webpage
- TELPAS Manual for Raters
- TELPAS Manual for Reading Test Administrators
- TELPAS Resources Webpage PowerPoints
- Assembling and Verifying Grades 2–12 Writing Collections (Optional Online Course in Texas TrainingCenter)
- Coordinator's and Rater's User Guides for Online Holistic Rating Training
- Educator Guide to TELPAS
- User's Guide for Texas Assessment Management System
- User Roles and Permissions for Texas Assessment Management System
- TestNav 7 Combined Technical Guide
- Unified Texas Minimum System Requirements

Additional TEA-Developed Training Resources

▸ Training presentations updated for districts to use in training coordinators and other school personnel
- *Spring 2014 TELPAS Holistic Rating Training System*
- *2014 Online Testing and Data Collection for TELPAS and STAAR L*

▸ These will be available from the TELPAS Resources webpage at
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/telpas/

Paper Administrations

» TELPAS reading and STAAR L

Paper Administrations of TELPAS Reading and STAAR L

▶ Paper test booklets (including large print, if applicable) approved by TEA in rare circumstances

◦ Accommodations that are not available in TestNav
◦ Unavoidable technological problems that make online testing impossible
◦ Other special situations (e.g., homebound students, JJAEPs, etc.)

Paper Administrations of TELPAS Reading and STAAR L

Special Request Process

▸ There is only **one** paper request form that may be used to request both STAAR L and TELPAS.

▸ Districts may, but are not required to, submit STAAR L and TELPAS paper requests on same form.

Paper Administrations of TELPAS Reading and STAAR L

Special Request Process

▸ Submit paper request form to Ell.tests@tea.state.tx.us.

▸ Submit request at least **2 weeks before testing** to allow for processing and shipping.

▸ If request is approved, TEA will notify district and order booklets.

▸ For STAAR L, shipment will include English Clarification Guides for test administrators to use when providing clarification in English.

Paper Administrations of TELPAS Reading and STAAR L

Transcription of Answers

- There are **no paper answer documents** for students approved to test on paper.

- Test administrators will transcribe student responses into a special online transcription form.

Paper Administrations of TELPAS Reading and STAAR L

Manuals

▸ TELPAS Coordinator and Test Administrator Supplement for Paper Administrations

▸ STAAR L Coordinator and Test Administrator Supplement for Paper Administrations

▸ Included in shipments of paper booklets

▸ Will also be posted on the Coordinator Manual Resources page

▸ TELPAS and STAAR administration manuals do not include instructions for paper-based testing.

Paper Administrations of STAAR L

▶ Student who was approved for a previous paper administration but is retesting will not automatically receive paper materials

▶ DTC should forward prior approval to TEA at ELL.tests@tea.state.tx.us so paper materials can be ordered from Pearson

Reminder

▶ Paper testing won't be approved on basis that student
- ◦ knows very little English
- ◦ has limited exposure to computers

Don't forget the TELPAS and STAAR L online student tutorials!

Texas Assessment Conference

- February 17–19, 2014
- Presentations with ELL assessment information
  - ELL Assessment Update
  - Accommodations
  - STAAR L mini-session
  - STAAR Spanish mini-session

Contact Information

▸ Email ELL Assessment team at ELL.tests@tea.state.tx.us

▸ Call Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536

▸ ELL Assessments Information webpage http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/