

# SpEd Assessment Updates: 2014-2015 Assessment Options for Students with Disabilities



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**TETN EVENT #31593**

# Changes to the Texas Assessment Program for Students with Disabilities

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- The U.S. Department of Education informed states that assessments based on modified standards for students served by special education cannot be used for accountability purposes after the 2013-2014 school year.
- STAAR Modified will be administered for the last time in 2014, including all three SSI administrations.

# What state assessment options will be available for students receiving special education services in 2015?

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- STAAR
  - STAAR Spanish
  - STAAR L
  - STAAR Alternate
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- Accommodations will be allowed but have not yet been finalized for the 2014-2015 school year.

# How is TEA planning to include students previously assessed with STAAR Modified in STAAR in 2015 and beyond?

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- **September:** TEA met with focus group to obtain input regarding how students with disabilities (currently eligible for STAAR Modified) are being provided access to the general curriculum
  - Classroom teachers, campus administrators, district personnel, Education Service Center specialists, advocates
- **November-present:** TEA staff has been working on plans for possible additional accommodations via an online delivery system
  - similar in functionality to STAAR L

## Next Steps?

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- **In the coming months TEA will:**
  - Continue to research viability and appropriateness of accommodations to STAAR in an online format
  - Test usability of such accommodations in cognitive labs

# What should ARD committees document in the IEP regarding state assessments for the 2014-2015 school year?

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- Document the most appropriate assessment out of the available options (STAAR, STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, STAAR Alternate).
  - If the student will take STAAR Alternate, the IEP must provide a statement of why the student cannot participate in STAAR with or without allowable accommodations, and why an alternate assessment is appropriate for the student, including acknowledgement that all of the eligibility criteria are met.
- The IEP may need to be amended once information about allowable testing accommodations is provided by TEA.
  - Instructional accommodations that the student needs in the classroom should be documented in the IEP.

# Reminder

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- **Participation requirements for STAAR Alternate are not changing significantly.**
- **Therefore, a change in the population of students assessed with STAAR Alternate is not anticipated.**
- **ARD committees will continue to determine if, and assure that, students recommended for STAAR Alternate meet all four of the participation requirements for STAAR Alternate participation in 2015.**

# Reminder

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- A student must have a cognitive disability, determined by an assessment specialist, and be instructed on an alternate curriculum based on prerequisite skills linked to the general education curriculum in order to be assessed with STAAR Alternate.
- Students who receive special education with an eligibility code of learning disabled will continue to be ineligible for STAAR Alternate.



# Will the Modified PEIMS codes still be available?

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- There are no plans at this time to delete these codes.
- However, the code table CO22 is updated three times a year (March, July, December). At any one of these times, changes may be made based on new information or educator feedback.
- Contact TEA's Curriculum Division at 512-463-9581 or [curriculum@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:curriculum@tea.state.tx.us) for questions about PEIMS codes and curriculum requirements.

# Graduation Requirements

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- It is expected that the graduation requirement rules will be finalized by the end of the day on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- After SBOE graduation requirement rules are finalized, TEA will work to adjust 19 TAC §89.1070.
- Contact TEA's Curriculum Division at 512-463-9581 or [curriculum@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:curriculum@tea.state.tx.us) for questions about graduation requirements.