



Passing rates rose on 13 of 17 STAAR exams for grades 3-8 when compared to 2015 standards

AUSTIN - After four years of seeing little change, the 2016 results for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) for grades 3-8 are on the rise. Thirteen of the 17 assessments showed gains – some as much as nine percentage points – when compared to 2015 passing standards.

“Student success on STAAR is generally up this year when compared to last year’s standards, which reflects the day-in, day-out hard work of teachers in the classroom throughout our state,” said Commissioner of Education Mike Morath. “Despite unanticipated issues associated with the transition to a new testing vendor, Texas students are generating results for a majority of the grades 3-8 assessments that are better than prior years, providing additional confidence in their use,” he said.

When held to the 2015 passing standards, the preliminary STAAR results show a nine percentage-point gain on the eighth-grade science assessment and six percentage-point gains on the fifth-grade science exam and the eighth-grade reading assessment. The fourth-grade reading assessment experienced a five percentage-point gain.

However, 2016 marked the first time that the state raised the passing standards on the STAAR. That means students generally had to correctly answer a few more questions this year to pass the test than they did in previous years.

At the higher passing standard, passing rates were up on six assessments and down or flat on 11.

The charts on the next page show the results at the current and previous passing requirements.

**STAAR Grades 3-8 Statewide Summary Results
All Students – English Language Version Only**

MATH	GRADE	2014-2015	2015-2016 At 2016 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2016 Standard	2015-2016 At 2015 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2015 Standard
	3	77%	76%	↓	78%	↑
4	73%	74%	↑	77%	↑	
5	79%	79%	↔	81%	↑	
6	75%	74%	↓	77%	↑	
7	72%	71%	↓	74%	↑	
8	75%	73%	↓	79%	↑	

READING	GRADE	2014-2015	2015-2016 At 2016 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2016 Standard	2015-2016 At 2015 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2015 Standard
	3	77%	74%	↓	79%	↑
4	74%	77%	↑	79%	↑	
5	78%	75%	↓	77%	↓	
6	76%	71%	↓	73%	↓	
7	75%	72%	↓	75%	↔	
8	78%	82%	↑	84%	↑	

WRITING	GRADE	2014-2015	2015-2016 At 2016 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2016 Standard	2015-2016 At 2015 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2015 Standard
	4	70%	69%	↓	69%	↓
7	72%	70%	↓	74%	↑	

SCIENCE	GRADE	2014-2015	2015-2016 At 2016 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2016 Standard	2015-2016 At 2015 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2015 Standard
	5	72%	75%	↑	78%	↑
8	70%	76%	↑	79%	↑	

SOCIAL STUDIES	GRADE	2014-2015	2015-2016 At 2016 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2016 Standard	2015-2016 At 2015 Passing Standard	2016 vs 2015 Using 2015 Standard
	8	64%	65%	↑	68%	↑

Comparison charts of statewide results and summary charts provide greater detail on all STAAR results. To review state-level reports for grades 3 through 8, visit the Texas Education Agency website at <http://tea.texas.gov/staar/rpt/sum/>. The data are also available in an Excel file at http://tea.texas.gov/2012_2016_STAAR_Combined_Summary_Results/.

Because the grades 5 and 8 reading and math tests were administered earlier in the spring than other STAAR assessments, those district level results are available at <https://txreports.emetric.net/DI>. However, the Texas Education Agency does not yet have district or campus-level results for other STAAR assessments but those results have been provided to Texas districts and charters.