

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the Release of 2015 STAAR Assessments

May 29, 2015

To the ESC and District Testing Coordinator Addressed:

Please DO NOT reply to this email.

This email provides information about the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) released tests, student data files, item analysis reports, and images of essays and short answer responses.

RELEASED QUESTIONS

In order to support future test administrations within the STAAR program, there will be only a partial release of test questions for STAAR grades 3–8 mathematics, including grades 3–5 Spanish. A partial release is a subset of test questions that are eligible for the assessment but do not represent the entire test blueprint. This partial release will include test questions that focus on new student expectations and readiness standards. TEA is planning to release about 20–30 test questions per grade.

In July 2015, the released test questions will be posted on the Student Assessment Division website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/testquestions>. The 2016 STAAR grades 3–8 mathematics assessments, as well as the Algebra I assessment, will be released in their entirety in August 2016.

RELEASED TESTS

In August 2015, TEA will release the primary form of the following 2015 general STAAR assessments, including the STAAR Spanish versions of the grades 3–5 assessments:

- grades 3–8 reading
- grades 4 and 7 writing
- grades 5 and 8 science
- grade 8 social studies
- Algebra I
- English I and English II
- biology
- U.S. history

In August 2015, all assessments listed above will be posted on the Student Assessment Division website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/testquestions>. For a nominal fee, districts may order printed versions of STAAR tests released in their entirety.

STUDENT DATA FILES

Item-level data on the spring 2015 student data files will be available for those assessments that have been released in their entirety. Refer to the 2015 STAAR grades 3–8 and STAAR end-of-course (EOC) reporting student data file formats posted on the Student Assessment Division website at <http://www.tea.texas.gov/student/assessment/datafileformats>.

ITEM ANALYSIS REPORTS

Individual Student Item Analysis Reports and Item Analysis Summary Reports will be available to districts in August 2015 for STAAR assessments that will be released in their entirety. Item Analysis Summary Reports will be available at the campus, district, region, and statewide levels. These reports will be posted in PDF format on the Texas Assessment Management System, delivered through PearsonAccess. Emails will be sent to districts once the item analysis reports are posted.

IMAGES OF ESSAYS AND SHORT ANSWER RESPONSES

Images of the essays and short answer responses for the following assessments will be posted on the Assessment Management System and will be available for districts at no charge:

- STAAR grade 4 essays
- STAAR grade 7 essays
- STAAR English I essays and short answer responses
- STAAR English II essays and short answer responses

The images will be posted within two weeks of the posting of standard reports for the spring STAAR grades 3–8 and STAAR EOC administrations.

For questions about the 2015 STAAR released tests, call TEA's Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536. For questions about the item analysis reports, electronic image essays, and short answer responses, or about ordering printed versions of the STAAR released tests, call Pearson's Austin Operations Center at 800-627-0225.

Assessment Contact Information

Texas Education Agency

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