



# TEA STAAR SCIENCE UPDATE

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- ❑ Spring 2016 STAAR Administrations
- ❑ STAAR Performance Standards
- ❑ Other Updates

# SPRING 2016 STAAR ADMINISTRATIONS

# Spring 2016 STAAR Administrations

- March 29–April 1
  - Grades 4 and 7 writing
  - Grades 5 and 8 mathematics
  - Grades 5 and 8 reading
  - English I and II
  
- May 2–6
  - Algebra I
  - Biology
  - U.S. History

# Spring 2016 STAAR Administrations

- May 9–13
  - Grades 3, 4, 6 and 7 mathematics
  - Grades 5 and 8 mathematics retest
  - Grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 reading
  - Grades 5 and 8 reading retest
  - Grades 5 and 8 science
  - Grade 8 social studies
  - English III
  - Algebra II

# Spring 2016 STAAR Administrations

- STAAR assessments for grades 3–8 will not have embedded field-test questions.
  - The tests will be shorter this year.
  - There will be only one form.
- Embedding field-test questions in STAAR grades 3–8 assessments will resume next year, 2016–2017.
- STAAR EOC assessments will continue to have embedded field-test questions in spring 2016.

# STAAR Standardized Oral Administration (SOA)

For spring 2016, TEA will offer STAAR SOA for students who meet the eligibility requirements.

- Grade 3 math and reading
- Grade 4 math and reading
- Grade 5 science
- Grade 6 math and reading
- Grade 7 math and reading
- Grade 8 science and social studies

# STAAR PERFORMANCE STANDARDS



# STAAR Performance Standards

- The phase-in of STAAR performance standards was adjusted by Commissioner Williams in October 2015.
- This adjusted phase-in plan, which increases performance standards annually in small increments, was adopted into Texas Administrative Code (TAC §101.3041).
- The phase-in performance standards are posted on the STAAR performance standards webpage at
  - [STAAR 3–8 Performance Standards Chart](#)
  - [STAAR EOC Performance Standards Chart](#)

# STAAR Grades 3–8 Performance Standards

- The STAAR (including STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, and STAAR A) Level II passing standards for the 2015–2016 school year are
  - Grade 5 science: 3550
  - Grade 8 science: 3550

# STAAR EOC Performance Standards

- The standard in place when a student first takes a STAAR EOC assessment is the standard that will be maintained on all STAAR EOC assessments throughout the student's high school career.
- Students who first took a STAAR EOC assessment between spring 2012 and summer 2015 are at the phase-in 1 performance standard.
  - Level II passing standard for Biology: 3500
- Students who first took a STAAR EOC assessment in fall 2015 through summer 2016 are at the 2015–2016 phase-in performance standard.
  - Level II passing standard for Biology: 3550

# OTHER UPDATES

# Testing Requirements

- Based on federal requirements, students are to be tested in science
  - once in elementary school
  - once in middle school
  - once in high school
  
- If a student is receiving accelerated instruction in science, the student should take the assessment that best matches his/her instruction.

# Testing Requirements

- Grade 8 students who are receiving instruction in biology should take the STAAR biology assessment.
  - The results of the STAAR biology assessment can be used to fulfill high school graduation requirements.
  - TEA discourages double testing these students (i.e., giving the student the biology assessment and the grade 8 science assessment).

# Testing Requirements

- Grade 8 students who are receiving instruction in a high school course that does not have a corresponding STAAR EOC assessment, for example IPC, do not have an assessment option that matches their instruction.
- These students are required to take the STAAR grade 8 science assessment to meet their federal testing requirement.
- However, if these students have already taken the grade 8 science test, then they have met their testing requirement for middle school science.

# Calculator Policy

- Calculators are required for the following STAAR assessments, including STAAR L and STAAR A.
  - Grade 8 mathematics
  - Algebra I
  - Algebra II
  - Biology
- Districts can now satisfy the calculator requirement by providing students with either a handheld calculator or a calculator application available on a tablet.
- More information is available at [Calculator Policy](#).



# Assessment Materials

- The following assessment materials are available on the TEA Student Assessment website.
  - STAAR Test Administrator Manuals
  - STAAR tutorials for online administrations
  - 2016–2017 Student Assessment Testing Calendar
  
- The following assessment materials will be posted soon on the TEA Student Assessment website.
  - STAAR practice tests for online administrations
  - Oral/Signed Administration Guidelines
  - Student Success Initiative Manual

# Release of STAAR Tests

TEA will release the following spring 2016 STAAR, STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, and STAAR A assessments in August 2016.

- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5 (March version for math and reading)
- Grade 6
- Grade 7
- Grade 8 (March version for math and reading)
- Algebra I (May version)
- English I (March version)
- English II (March version)
- Biology (May version)
- U.S. History (May version)

# Questions?

- Call TEA Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536.
- Email TEA Student Assessment Division at [student.assessment@tea.texas.gov](mailto:student.assessment@tea.texas.gov).
- Email the Science Assessment Team at [science.test@tea.texas.gov](mailto:science.test@tea.texas.gov).
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