

# **A Study of the Correlation between STAAR Performance and Course Performance on English II**

## **Overview**

Texas Education Code Section 39.332(b)(6) mandates an evaluation of the correlation between student classroom assessment grades and student performance on state-mandated assessments. To comply with this statute, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has conducted periodic studies to determine the association between students' classroom performance and their scores on statewide criterion-referenced assessments.

The current report presented the most recent study, which examined the relationship between passing (i.e., meeting the *Approaches Grade level* Performance standard on) the spring 2021 State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) English II assessment and passing (i.e., receiving credit for) the English II course. The passing rates for the spring 2021 STAAR English II assessment were compared with the passing rates for the English II course based on the course completion information submitted to TEA by districts for the 2020–2021 school year. All students in the state who had both STAAR English II data and English II course data available were considered for comparison. As done in previous studies, if students who enrolled in the same course multiple times through 2020–2021 school year had different credit results (i.e., pass or fail), the observation including a passing result was used for comparison. Otherwise, the result from the most recent course enrollment was used for comparison.

## **Results**

### **Overall Student Performance**

Table 1 presents the overall passing rates for students who were available for the comparison study. The table has three sections. The first section (column 1) reports the total number of students included in the current study. The second section of the table (columns 2 and 3, highlighted in gray) presents the passing rates for the STAAR assessment and passing rates for the course, respectively. The third section (columns 4 through 7) presents the rates for passing both the STAAR assessment and the course, for passing the STAAR assessment only, for passing the course only, and the percentage of students who passed neither the STAAR

assessment nor the course.

Overall, the study included 368,390 students where 73 percent of students passed the STAAR English II assessment and 90 percent of them passed the English II course. Sixty-nine (69) percent of students passed both STAAR English II assessment and the English II course. The overall percentage of students who passed the course (90 percent) was 17 percent higher than those who passed the STAAR English II (73 percent). There was a small percentage of students that passed only the STAAR assessment (4 percent). The proportion of students passing only the English II course was 21 percent. Six percent of students passed neither the STAAR assessment nor the course.

**Table 1 Overall Student Performance for STAAR EOC English II and English II Course**

Student Course Enrollment	STAAR Passing Rate	Course Passing Rate	Passing Both	Passing STAAR Only	Passing Course Only	Not Passing Either
368,390	73%	90%	69%	4%	21%	6%

Note: This table is based on students who have both STAAR and course data for English II available.

The remainder of this report is dedicated to presenting similar results disaggregated by student groups based on ethnicity, sex, and economic status. Some groups of students constitute a large portion of the population, and others a small portion. To avoid generating imprecise results due to small sample sizes for some student groups, the selected student groups that were analyzed in this section only included those that correspond to five percent or more of the total number of students enrolled. Table 2 shows the population size and corresponding percentage of the included subgroups.

**Table 2 Students Population and Percentage for Subgroups**

Subgroup	Number of Students	Percentage
Ethnicity: Black/African American	45,552	12%
Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino	192,634	52%
Ethnicity: White	101,710	28%
Sex: Female	180,641	49%
Sex: Male	187,749	51%
Economically Disadvantaged	199,826	54%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	168,258	46%

Note: This table is based on students who have both STAAR and course data for English II available.

## Student Performance by Ethnicity

Across all ethnic groups, the passing rates for English II course were higher than the passing rates of the STAAR English II assessment. The percentages passing the STAAR assessment, the course, and both the assessment and course were higher for White students than for Black/African American students and Hispanic/Latino students. The comparison results across three ethnic groups are shown in Table 3, the passing rates for the English II course ranged from 87 percent to 95 percent, and the passing rates for STAAR English II assessment ranged from 63 percent to 85 percent. The specific results for each ethnicity group are presented below.

**Black/African American Students.** Results for Black/African American students are presented in the first row in Table 3. Among 45,552 Black/African American students, the overall percentage of students passing the English II course (88 percent) was higher than those who passed the STAAR English II assessment (63 percent). Fifty-eight percent of Black/African American students passed both the assessment and the English II course. Four percent passed only the STAAR English II only, 29 percent passed only the English II course, and eight percent passed neither.

**Table 3** Student Performance by Ethnicity for STAAR English II and English II Course

Ethnicity	Student Course Enrollment	STAAR Passing Rate	Course Passing Rate	Passing Both	Passing STAAR Only	Passing Course Only	Not Passing Either
Black/African American	45,552	63%	88%	58%	4%	29%	8%
Hispanic/Latino	192,634	67%	87%	62%	5%	25%	8%
White	101,710	85%	95%	83%	2%	13%	2%

Note: This table is based on students who have both STAAR and course data for English II available.

**Hispanic/Latino Students.** The total sample size for Hispanic/Latino students was 192,634. For all Hispanic/Latino students, 67 percent of them passed the STAAR assessment while 87 percent passed the English II course. Sixty-two percent of Hispanic/Latino students passed both the STAAR English II assessment and the English II course. Five percent of Hispanic/Latino students passed the STAAR English II assessment only while 25 percent passed the English II course only. Eight percent of students passed neither.

**White Students.** Results for White students are presented in the third row in Table 3. For 101,710 White students, 95 percent of them received the course credit, which was about 10 percent higher than those who passed the STAAR assessment (85 percent). Eighty-three percent of White students passed both STAAR English II assessment and the English II course. Two percent of them passed STAAR English II assessment only, 13 percent passed the English II course only, and two percent passed neither.

### Student Performance by Sex

In the current study, 180,641 female students and 187,749 male students enrolled in the English II course. Female students had higher passing rates for the STAAR English II assessment than male students. Furthermore, the English II course passing rate was also higher for females than males. Specific details for each sex group are presented in Table 4.

**Female Students.** Results for female students are presented in Table 4. Seventy-nine percent of female students who enrolled in the English II passed the STAAR English assessment while 92 percent of female students passed the English II course. Seventy-five percent of female students passed both the STAAR English II assessment and the English II course. Four percent of female students passed only the STAAR English II assessment while 17 percent passed the course only. four percent passed neither.

**Table 4** Student Performance by Sex for STAAR EOC English II and English II Course

Sex	Student Course Enrollment	STAAR Passing Rate	Course Passing Rate	Passing Both	Passing STAAR Only	Passing Course Only	Not Passing Either
Female	180,641	79%	92%	75%	4%	17%	4%
Male	187,749	68%	88%	63%	4%	25%	8%

Note: This table is based on students who have both STAAR and course data for English II available.

**Male Students.** Results for male students are presented in the second row in Table 4. Among all male students, 68 percent of them passed the STAAR English assessment whereas 88 percent passed the English II course. Sixty-three percent of male students passed both the English II assessment and the course. Four percent of male students only passed STAAR English II assessment, 25 percent only passed the English II course, and eight percent passed neither.

## Student Performance by Economic Status

Overall, the rates for non-economically disadvantaged students were higher than for economically disadvantaged students on passing the STAAR English II assessment, passing the English II course, and passing both. The passing rates results for economically disadvantaged students and non-economically disadvantaged students are presented in Table 5.

**Economically Disadvantaged Students.** Among 199,826 economically disadvantaged students who enrolled in the English II course, 63 percent and 86 percent of them passed the STAAR English II assessment and the English II course, respectively. The rate of passing both was 58 percent. Five percent of economically disadvantaged students passed the STAAR English II assessment only, 28 percent passed only the English II course, and nine percent passed neither.

**Table 5** *Student Performance by Economic Status for STAAR EOC English II and English II Course*

Economic Status	Student Course Enrollment	STAAR Passing Rate	Course Passing Rate	Passing Both	Passing STAAR Only	Passing Course Only	Not Passing Either
Economically Disadvantaged	199,826	63%	86%	58%	5%	28%	9%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	168,258	85%	95%	82%	3%	13%	2%

Note: This table is based on students who have both STAAR and course data for English II available.

**Non-Economically Disadvantaged Students.** There were 168,258 non-economically disadvantaged students that took the English II course. Eighty-five percent of them passed the STAAR English II assessment while 95 percent of the students received credit for the English II course. For non-economically disadvantaged group, 82 percent of them passed both STAAR English II assessment and the course. Three percent of the students passed only the STAAR English II assessment, 13 percent passed only the English II course, and two percent passed neither the assessment nor the course.

## Summary

This current study compared the passing rates for the STAAR English II assessment and the English II course. The overall results of the study showed that most students in the current study (69 percent) passed both the STAAR English II assessment and the English II course. The percentage of students passing the English II course (90 percent) was higher than the percentage passing the STAAR English II assessment (73 percent). This finding was consistent across all subgroups in the current study.

Across three ethnic groups, passing rates regarding both the STAAR English II assessment and the course ranged from 58 to 83 percent. In addition, the passing rate for the English II course (87 to 95 percent) was higher than the passing rate for the STAAR English II assessment (63 to 85 percent) across Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and White groups. Regarding the passing rates between female and male students, the STAAR English II assessment had lower passing rates (68 and 79 percent) than the course (88 and 92 percent). Female group had a higher rate in passing both the assessment and the course (75 percent) than that of the male group (63 percent). In terms of economic status, the results of the study showed that the passing rates on the STAAR English II assessment, the course, and on both STAAR English II and the course were higher for the non-economically disadvantaged students than for the economically disadvantaged ones. Additionally, both groups had higher passing rates on the English II course. The English II course passing rates were 86 percent and 95 percent, respectively, for the economically disadvantaged group and the non-economically disadvantaged group whereas the passing rates for the STAAR English II assessment were 63 percent and 85 percent, respectively.