TRAINING ON LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE STAAR® PROGRAM

TEA Student Assessment Division
2015–2016
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TOPICS

- Overview
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR (3–8 paper; EOC online and paper) and STAAR L online administrations
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR L paper administrations
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR A online and paper administrations
Linguistic Accommodations for ELLs Participating in the STAAR Program

Linguistic accommodation guide is principal source of linguistic accommodation information for testing personnel

Coordinators and test administrators should read and review the contents of this guide carefully

Available at http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/accommodations/
## ALLOWABLE LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ELLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathematics* Science Social Studies</th>
<th>STAAR English</th>
<th>STAAR L</th>
<th>STAAR A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Bilingual dictionary</td>
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<td>• Clarification in English of word meaning and reading aloud of text are provided in the online interface for all students taking STAAR L**</td>
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<th>Reading Writing</th>
<th>STAAR English</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading and Writing:</strong></td>
<td>• Dictionaries of various types\†</td>
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<td><strong>Writing:</strong></td>
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<td>• Clarification in English of word meaning in writing prompts</td>
<td>• Clarification in English of word meaning</td>
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<th>English I English II</th>
<th>STAAR English</th>
<th>STAAR L</th>
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*STAAR L and STAAR A are not available for Algebra II.
**In addition to examining the eligibility criteria for STAAR L, LPACs should consider whether a student routinely needs and uses clarification in English of word meaning and/or reading aloud of text. Students who do not need either accommodation should take STAAR, not STAAR L.
\†The STAAR Dictionary Policy for reading and writing in grade 6 and above includes use of Standard English, ESL (simplified English), and bilingual dictionaries for all students. If a student in grade 6 and above needs a dictionary as a linguistic accommodation that is not listed in the STAAR Dictionary Policy, the use of the other dictionaries listed on page 5 of this document are permitted as a linguistic accommodation in grades 3 and above. For grades 3-5 reading and grade 4 writing, use of dictionaries is permitted as a linguistic accommodation for eligible ELLs.
When providing linguistic accommodations to students, test administrators may not provide any direct or indirect assistance or reinforcement that aids a student in identifying a correct response to the test question.
LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATIONS

STAAR (3–8 PAPER; EOC PAPER AND ONLINE)

AND

STAAR L ONLINE ADMINISTRATIONS
**LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

**STAAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathematics, Science, Social Studies</th>
<th>Reading, Writing, English I, English II, English III</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Bilingual dictionary</td>
<td>• Grades 3–5: Dictionaries of various types*</td>
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<td>• Extra time (same day)</td>
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<td>• Clarification in English of meaning of</td>
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<td>• words in writing prompt (applies to all assessments listed above)</td>
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<td>• words in short answer reading questions (English I–III only)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Dictionary access is to be provided for all students in grade 6 and up as part of STAAR dictionary policy.*
LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATIONS

STAAR L

Mathematics*, Science, Social Studies

• Bilingual dictionary
• Extra time (same day)
• Clarification in English of word meaning**
• Reading aloud of text**

*STAAR L not available for Algebra II
**Provided in online interface
DICTIONARIES AS A LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATION

Four categories:

- Bilingual dictionary
- English/ESL dictionary
- Non-English monolingual dictionary
- Picture dictionary
BILINGUAL DICTIONARY

- Allowable for STAAR and STAAR L (any subject)
- Considered a linguistic accommodation for
  - mathematics, science, social studies (all grades)
  - grades 3–5 reading and grade 4 writing
- Used to translate words (and sometimes common phrases) from one language to another
- May include pictures as long as pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts

**Reminder:** Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy and not considered a linguistic accommodation
ENGLISH/ESL DICTIONARY

- Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only; not other STAAR subjects; not STAAR L
- Considered a linguistic accommodation below grade 6
- Unlike bilingual dictionaries, English dictionaries contain definitions of English words
- ESL dictionaries define words using simpler English
- Some dictionaries (e.g., children’s dictionaries, ESL dictionaries) include some pictures

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy and not considered a linguistic accommodation
NON-ENGLISH MONOLINGUAL DICTIONARY

- Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only
- Considered a linguistic accommodation in grade 3 and up
- Single-language standard (definition) dictionary in a language other than English (e.g., dictionary of Spanish language; dictionary of Vietnamese language)
PICTURE DICTIONARY

- Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only
- Linguistic accommodation in grade 3 and up
- Conveys word meaning through drawings or photos; includes only words that can be pictured
- May be monolingual, bilingual, or multilingual (may show picture plus word in one language or more than one language)
Within four categories of allowable dictionaries, keep in mind the following guidelines:

- **Paper and electronic dictionary formats (including hand-held electronic devices) are permitted**

- **Electronic devices:**
  - must not be Internet-based (it is not sufficient to disable Internet)
  - any features that allow entering and saving text or uploading files must be cleared before and after test administration
  - if device has additional capabilities (e.g. calculator) that cannot be disabled, the test administrator must actively monitor to ensure that these features are not accessed
Subject-specific/topic-specific dictionaries (e.g., science dictionaries, academic language dictionaries, etc.) are not permitted.

Bilingual, ESL, and standard monolingual dictionaries that contain occasional pictures are acceptable as long as the pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts.

Electronic devices that translate beyond the level of words and set phrases are not considered bilingual dictionaries and are not permitted.

Only dictionaries by reputable dictionary publishing companies should be used (no dictionaries produced by school districts, service centers, etc.).
EXTRA TIME (SAME DAY)

- Allowable for STAAR and STAAR L all subjects and courses
- Enables ELL to have extra time within regularly scheduled school day to complete assessment
- Does not mean ELL must take all day; means student may have additional time needed within school day
- Not automatically allowed for all ELLs
CLARIFICATION IN ENGLISH OF WORD MEANING
WRITING PROMPTS

- Allowable for STAAR writing: grades 4, 7, English I–III
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words and phrases on writing prompt page.
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures.
- Test administrator is not permitted to reinforce or emphasize any information on prompt page or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of composition.

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.
EXAMPLE 1: GRADE 7 WRITING (EXPOSITORY)

CLARIFICATION OF WORD MEANING IN WRITING PROMPT

READ the following quotation.

A famous businessman once said, "Players win games; teams win championships."

THINK carefully about the following statement.

Sometimes you can accomplish good things by yourself but better things with other people.

WRITE an essay explaining whether it is better to work by yourself or with a group.

Be sure to —

• clearly state your controlling idea
• organize and develop your explanation effectively
• choose your words carefully
• use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences
CLARIFICATION IN ENGLISH OF WORD MEANING
SHORT ANSWER READING QUESTIONS

- Allowable for STAAR English I–III
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words/phrases in short answer questions.
- Before providing clarification, test administrator should ask whether student has looked up word in dictionary; clarification can be provided to students who still need assistance after using the dictionary.
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures.
- Test administrator is not permitted to reinforce or emphasize any part of information or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of response.
- Clarification is not permitted for
  - language arts terms,
  - words/phrases that are part of the selection title, or
  - words/phrases that are quoted from the selection.

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.
In this excerpt from *Anne of Green Gables*, do you think the stage directions enhance your understanding of the scene? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from the selection.
STAAR L only

- For December 2015 EOC paper administrations, both clarification of word meaning and reading aloud of text are provided by the test administrator.

- For 2016 test administrations, both clarification in English of word meaning and reading aloud of text are provided for all students in the online interface.
LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATIONS
STAAR L PAPER ADMINISTRATIONS
In addition to receiving training on general test administration procedures and test security, test administrators need to be trained in testing procedures specific to STAAR L paper administrations.

Test administrators who provide clarification of word meaning should:

- be familiar with the subject matter assessed and linguistic needs of the students, and
- work routinely with the students in assisting with or delivering instruction.
STAAR L Paper Administration Guide

- Replaces the paper supplement and English clarification guide (ECG)
- Subject/grade level specific
- Includes non-secure and secure sections
  - Non-secure section
    - general information for district and campus coordinators, test administrator information and test directions, and instructions for Off-limits Word List
    - posted on STAAR L webpage ahead of time
  - Secure section
    - Off-limits Word List
Use the Off-limits Word List Instructions for Test Administrators to familiarize test administrators with using an Off-limits Word List.

Instructions page and sample Off-limits Word List can be found in the STAAR L Paper Administration Guide located at http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ell/staarl/.

Remember, Off-limits Word Lists are for test administrator use only and should not be distributed to students.
Test administrators or testing personnel must indicate on either the paper answer document for the December 2015 administration, or in the online system for the 2016 administrations, that a linguistic Accommodation documented by the LPAC was made available to a student, even if the student did not use the accommodation during testing.
As with online administrations of STAAR L, students testing on paper may be eligible to use a bilingual dictionary and/or extra time.

See slides #11 and #17 in this PowerPoint for more information on these linguistic accommodations.
Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

- Per student request only, test administrator may read aloud words, phrases, or occasional sentences in a test item.
- Includes words in stem, question, answer choices, and any stimuli (e.g., map, diagram, etc.).
- Voice inflection must be kept neutral.
- Numbers, symbols, and abbreviations can be read aloud as long as doing so does not invalidate what item is testing.

Reminder: For grade 3 mathematics, standard test administration procedure allows all grade 3 students to receive reading (decoding) assistance on this assessment.
Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

- Per student request only, the test administrator may clarify the meaning of eligible words and phrases.
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures when clarifying meaning of eligible words or phrases.

**Note:** When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.
Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

- Test administrator not permitted to define, explain, or illustrate content terminology or concepts assessed

- Paper administration guide with Off-limits Word List provided for test administrators
  - Grade/subject specific
  - Instructions and secure list of words not eligible for clarification for each test item included
  - For test administrator use only; not for students
STAAR L PAPER ADMINISTRATION

ITEM EXAMPLES
EXAMPLE 1:
U.S. HISTORY
EOC
READING ALOUD
BILINGUAL
DICTIONARY

Which of the following does this 1937 political cartoon satirize?

A  Congressional attempts to bypass the principle of separation of powers
B  President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s attempt to reorganize the Supreme Court
C  President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s refusal to cooperate with state governments
D  Congressional attempts to undermine the principle of state sovereignty
EXAMPLE 2: GRADE 4 MATHEMATICS
READING ALOUD

Faith has completed $\frac{6}{18}$ of her math homework. Olivia has completed $\frac{4}{9}$ of her math homework. Which of these girls has completed a greater fraction of her math homework?

A  Faith, because $\frac{6}{18} > \frac{4}{9}$

B  Faith, because $\frac{6}{18} < \frac{4}{9}$

C  Olivia, because $\frac{4}{9} < \frac{6}{18}$

D  Olivia, because $\frac{4}{9} > \frac{6}{18}$
Last week a certain brand of bottled water cost $1.25 for a 16-ounce bottle. This week the water is on sale for $1.00 for a 16-ounce bottle. What is the percent decrease in the price of this bottled water?

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<td>A</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Test Item Number</th>
<th>Words Not Eligible for Clarification</th>
<th>Test Item Number</th>
<th>Words Not Eligible for Clarification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>percent decrease</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>29</td>
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LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATIONS

STAAR A ONLINE AND PAPER ADMINISTRATIONS
## LINGUISTIC ACCOMMODATIONS

### STAAR A

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>• Extra time (same day)</td>
<td>(grades 3–5)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clarification in English of word</td>
<td>• Extra time (same day)</td>
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<td>meaning</td>
<td>• Clarification in English of word</td>
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<td>meaning</td>
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*STAAR A is not available for Algebra II or English III.

**Dictionary access is to be provided for all students in grade 6 and up as part of STAAR dictionary policy.
STAAR policies for the following accommodations also apply to STAAR A:

- Bilingual dictionary
- English dictionary (standard or ESL)
- Monolingual dictionary in languages other than English
- Picture dictionary
BILINGUAL DICTIONARY

- Allowable for STAAR A (any subject)
- Considered a linguistic accommodation for:
  - mathematics, science, social studies (all grades)
  - grades 3–5 reading and grade 4 writing
- Used to translate words (and sometimes common phrases) from one language to another
- May include pictures as long as pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy and not considered a linguistic accommodation
ENGLISH/ESL DICTIONARY

- Allowable for STAAR A reading and writing only; not other STAAR A subjects
- Considered a linguistic accommodation below grade 6
- Unlike bilingual dictionaries, English dictionaries contain definitions of English words
- ESL dictionaries define words using simpler English
- Some dictionaries (e.g., children’s dictionaries, ESL dictionaries) include some pictures

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy and not considered a linguistic accommodation
NON-ENGLISH MONOLINGUAL DICTIONARY

- Allowable for STAAR A reading and writing only
- Considered a linguistic accommodation in grade 3 and up
- Single-language standard (definition) dictionary in a language other than English (e.g., dictionary of Spanish language; dictionary of Vietnamese language)
PICTURE DICTIONARY

- Allowable for STAAR A reading and writing only
- Linguistic accommodation in grade 3 and up
- Conveys word meaning through drawings or photos; includes only words that can be pictured
- May be monolingual, bilingual, or multilingual (may show picture plus word in one language or more than one language)
Within four categories of allowable dictionaries, keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Paper and electronic dictionary formats (including hand-held electronic devices) are permitted

- Electronic devices:
  - must not be Internet-based (it is not sufficient to disable Internet)
  - any features that allow entering and saving text or uploading files must be cleared before and after test administration
  - if device has additional capabilities (e.g. calculator) that cannot be disabled, the test administrator must actively monitor to ensure that these features are not accessed
DICTIONARIES
ALLOWABLE AND NON-ALLOWABLE FORMATS

- Subject-specific/topic-specific dictionaries (e.g., science dictionaries, academic language dictionaries, etc.) are not permitted.

- Bilingual, ESL, and standard monolingual dictionaries that contain occasional pictures are acceptable as long as the pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts.

- Electronic devices that translate beyond the level of words and set phrases are not considered bilingual dictionaries and are not permitted.

- Only dictionaries by reputable dictionary publishing companies should be used (no dictionaries produced by school districts, service centers, etc.).
EXTRA TIME (SAME DAY)

- Allowable for STAAR A all subjects and courses
- Enables ELL to have extra time within regularly scheduled school day to complete assessment
- Does not mean ELL must take all day; means student may have additional time needed within school day
- Not automatically allowed for all ELLs
**CLARIFICATION IN ENGLISH OF WORD MEANING**

**TEST ITEMS**

- Allowable for all STAAR A subjects/courses

- Test administrator may:
  - clarify meaning of eligible words and phrases per student request only
  - use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures when clarifying meaning of eligible words or phrases
  - provide clarification allowed on multiple-choice items in reading and writing
CLARIFICATION IN ENGLISH OF WORD MEANING TEST ITEMS

- Test administrator not permitted to:
  - clarify word meaning in a way that cues answers to items testing spelling, mechanics, and grammar in a **writing** test
    - Example: Test administrator not permitted to clarify the meaning of tested words in item assessing homonyms
  - define, explain, or illustrate content terminology or concepts assessed
  - clarify or otherwise explain content terminology or concepts, or provide any assistance that aids the student in finding a correct answer

**Note:** When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.
Test administrators should be trained using the STAAR L example items for paper administrations (slides 33 and 35) as reference for the types of words that are not eligible for clarification. For mathematics, science, and social studies no Off-limits Word Lists will be provided.
EXAMPLE 1: GRADE 5 SCIENCE

CLARIFICATION OF WORD MEANING IN TEST QUESTIONS

BILINGUAL DICTIONARY

Which of the following events in the water cycle is an example of solar energy being absorbed?

- A Water vapor condensing to form clouds
- B Water evaporating from the surface of an ocean
- C Rain freezing as it falls toward the ground
- D Clouds releasing precipitation over a mountain
EXAMPLE 2: U.S. HISTORY

CLARIFICATION OF WORD MEANING IN TEST QUESTIONS

BILINGUAL DICTIONARY

How did the publication of Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle* contribute to a change in the relationship between government and business?

- **A** Federal troops were mobilized to break strikes by labor unions.

- **B** Government regulations requiring the inspection of food products were implemented.

- **C** Congress created a regulatory agency to audit railroads.

- **D** Laws were enacted that banned private companies from discriminating when hiring.
CLARIFICATION IN ENGLISH OF WORD MEANING
READING AND WRITING SELECTIONS

- Allowable for STAAR A reading: grades 3–8, writing: grades 4, 7, and English I–II

- Test administrator may:
  - clarify meaning of occasional words and phrases in STAAR A reading and writing selections using simpler English, pictures and/or gestures per student request

- Test administrator not permitted to:
  - clarify meaning of entire sentences or longer portions of text
  - provide assistance that aids the student in determining correct answers to test questions
  - read aloud word being clarified if the word is not eligible to be read aloud (indicated by Do Not Read icon)
Test administrator must not clarify:

- the meaning of vocabulary, expressions, or other phrasing specifically assessed in a reading selection test question.

- meaning in a way that provides cues related to spelling, mechanics, or grammar in a writing selection.

For example, if a student requests clarification of the meaning of the misspelled word sugest in an editing selection, the test administrator must not comment on the misspelling when clarifying the meaning.

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.
Excerpt from “The Spark”

(16) Within a matter of days, we started to hear stories of others who had benefited from a spark of kindness.  (17) The man whose fence we fixed told us how he helped another friend clean out her garage.  (18) The kids in the after-school program made cards for the residents of a retirement center.  (19) The elderly neighbor made cookies for a community bake sale.  (20) And the single mom joined some fellow students who were spearheading a winter coat drive for the homeless.
CLARIFICATION IN ENGLISH OF WORD MEANING WRITING PROMPTS

- Allowable for STAAR A writing: grades 4, 7, English I–II
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words and phrases on writing prompt page
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures
- Test administrator is not permitted to reinforce or emphasize any information on prompt page or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of composition

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.
EXAMPLE 1: GRADE 4 WRITING (EXPOSITORY)

CLARIFICATION OF WORD MEANING IN WRITING PROMPT

READ the information in the box below.

Most people have a favorite season or time of year.

THINK about the time of year you like the most.

WRITE about your favorite time of year. Explain what makes it special to you.

Be sure to —

• clearly state your central idea
• organize your writing
• develop your writing in detail
• choose your words carefully
• use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences
CLARIFICATION IN ENGLISH OF WORD MEANING
SHORT ANSWER READING QUESTIONS

- Allowable for STAAR A English I–II reading
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words/phrases in short answer questions
- Before providing clarification, test administrator should ask whether student has looked up word in dictionary; clarification can be provided to students who still need assistance after using dictionary
CLARIFICATION IN ENGLISH OF WORD MEANING
SHORT ANSWER READING QUESTIONS

- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures.

- Test administrator is not permitted to reinforce or emphasize any part of information or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of response.

- Clarification is not permitted for
  - language arts terms,
  - words/phrases that are part of selection title, or
  - words/phrases that are quoted from selection.

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.
What message do you think the speaker in “Sunday Morning Early” and the narrator of “I Wish I Was a Poet” are trying to convey? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from both selections.
READING ALOUD OF TEXT
TEST ITEMS

- Allowable for all STAAR A subjects/courses
- Available for all students in online and paper versions of STAAR A
- **Reading and Writing:** Prereading text, revising selections, and reading and revising test questions and answer choices read aloud via computer-generated read aloud functionality
- **Mathematics, Science and Social Studies:** All questions and answer choices read aloud via computer-generated read aloud functionality

**Reminder:** For grade 3 mathematics, standard test administration procedure allows all grade 3 students to receive reading (decoding) assistance on this assessment.
For more information

- If further assistance is needed, contact the TEA Student Assessment Division
  - (512) 463-9536
  - ell.tests@tea.texas.gov