

TEA Update on STAAR Science

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
STUDENT ASSESSMENT DIVISION
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Changes to Test Blueprints

Requirements of House Bill 743

House Bill 743 added §39.023 (a-12) to the Texas Education Code.

It requires the STAAR assessments to be designed so that

- 85% of students can complete the grades 3–5 assessments in 2 hours
- 85% of students can complete the grades 6–8 assessments in 3 hours

Requirements of House Bill 743

To meet the requirements of House Bill 743, TEA took into consideration

- Testing time data collected from the spring 2015 and spring 2016 administrations
- Time allotted to test for grades 3–8 in some other states
- Advice from our Technical Advisory Committee
- Projected reliability estimates

Requirements of House Bill 743

The tests were shortened to the minimum number of questions per test to maintain the necessary reliability projections and ensure the assessments are valid and reliable.

State law, §39.0304, requires the state assessments to be valid and reliable.

Federal law, Section 1111(b)(3)(C)(iii), also requires the state assessments to be valid and reliable.

Overview of the Changes

The decrease in the number of test questions was spread proportionally across the reporting categories for each test.

The number of field-test questions was decreased from 8 to 6.

Students in grades 3–8 still have up to 4 hours to test.

Overview of the Changes

The construct of what is assessed has not changed since the blueprint reduction for STAAR grades 3–8 assessments was applied proportionally across each test.

Therefore, there is no need to change

- the assessed curriculum
- the readiness versus supporting designations
- the scale scores
- the score interpretations

However, the raw score for each test will change since there are fewer questions.

Specific Changes for Science

STAAR ASSESSMENT	GR 5 SCIENCE		GR 8 SCIENCE	
BUEPRINT	2015	2017	2015	2017
REPORTING CATEGORY 1	8	6	14	11
REPORTING CATEGORY 2	10	8	12	9
REPORTING CATEGORY 3	12	10	14	11
REPORTING CATEGORY 4	14	12	14	11
TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	44	36	54	42

Specific Changes for Grade 5 Science

The STAAR grade 5 science assessment was shortened by 8 total questions (from 44 to 36).

This test will no longer include griddable questions.

The number of field-test questions has been decreased by 2 questions (from 8 to 6).

There is no change to the assessed curriculum.

Specific Changes for Grade 8 Science

The STAAR grade 8 science assessment was shortened by 12 total questions (from 54 to 42).

The number of griddable questions has been decreased by 2 questions (from 4 to 2).

The number of field-test questions has been decreased by 2 questions (from 8 to 6).

There is no change to the assessed curriculum.

Biology EOC

There is no change to the STAAR biology assessment

There are still 54 operational questions.

There are still 8 field-test questions.

Students still have four hours in which to take the test.

STAAR Grade 5 Science Blueprint

Reporting Categories	Number of Standards		Number of Questions
Reporting Category 1: Matter and Energy	Readiness Standards	1	6
	Supporting Standards	4	
Reporting Category 2: Force, Motion, and Energy	Readiness Standards	3	8
	Supporting Standards	2	
Reporting Category 3: Earth and Space	Readiness Standards	4	10
	Supporting Standards	11	
Reporting Category 4: Organisms and Environments	Readiness Standards	4	12
	Supporting Standards	5	
Readiness Standards	Total Number of Standards	12	22–24
Supporting Standards	Total Number of Standards	22	12–14

STAAR Grade 8 Science Blueprint

Reporting Categories	Number of Standards		Number of Questions
Reporting Category 1: Matter and Energy	Readiness Standards	5	11
	Supporting Standards	7	
Reporting Category 2: Force, Motion, and Energy	Readiness Standards	2	9
	Supporting Standards	6	
Reporting Category 3: Earth and Space	Readiness Standards	5	11
	Supporting Standards	10	
Reporting Category 4: Organisms and Environments	Readiness Standards	3	11
	Supporting Standards	11	
Readiness Standards	Total Number of Standards	15	25–27
Supporting Standards	Total Number of Standards	34	15–17

STAAR Biology Blueprint

Reporting Categories	Number of Standards		Number of Questions
Reporting Category 1: Cell Structure and Function	Readiness Standards	4	11
	Supporting Standards	5	
Reporting Category 2: Mechanisms of Genetics	Readiness Standards	3	11
	Supporting Standards	5	
Reporting Category 3: Biological Evolution and Classification	Readiness Standards	3	10
	Supporting Standards	7	
Reporting Category 4: Biological Processes and Systems	Readiness Standards	2	11
	Supporting Standards	4	
Reporting Category 5: Interdependence within Environmental Systems	Readiness Standards	4	11
	Supporting Standards	5	
Readiness Standards	Total Number of Standards	16	32–35
Supporting Standards	Total Number of Standards	26	19–22

Performance Standards

Performance Standards

Revision to 19 TAC §101.3041 is in rule-making process

Proposed rule will hold STAAR passing standard at 2016 scale scores

- Grade 5 science: 3550
- Grade 8 science: 3550
- Biology: 3550*

New standards would take effect for 2017 tests

*For EOC, passing standard in place when student took first EOC assessments would apply for all EOC assessments

Performance Standards

Proposal will set new performance labels

- Does not meet grade level performance
- Approaches grade level performance
- Meets grade level performance
- Masters grade level performance

TEKS Streamlining

TEKS Streamlining

As revisions are made to the TEKS, changes are subsequently made to the assessment program to maintain a strong, direct, and effective link between the TEKS and the statewide assessments.

The timing of the revisions to the assessment program depends on the timing for the adoption of the revised TEKS and implementation date established by the State Board of Education.

Please keep in mind that for any school year, the state assessments will always align to the curriculum in place across the state for that school year.

Potential changes to STAAR Grade 5 Science*

- Edited language in 7 Supporting Standards
- Edited language in 5 Readiness Standards
- Recoded 4 Student Expectations
- Recoded 3 Process Standards
- Deleted 1 Readiness Standard

*based on final committee recommendations

Potential changes to STAAR Grade 8 Science*

- Deleted 4 Supporting Standards
- Deleted part of 1 Supporting Standard and merged with 1 Readiness Standard
- Edited language in 3 Readiness Standards
- Edited language in 6 Supporting Standards
- Recoded 7 Student Expectations
- Deleted 1 Readiness Standard

*based on final committee recommendations

Potential changes to STAAR Biology*

- Deleted 7 Supporting Standards
- Deleted part of 1 Supporting Standard and merged it with 1 Supporting Standard
- Edited language in 3 Readiness Standards
- Edited language in 3 Supporting Standards
- Recoded 10 student expectations

*based on final committee recommendations

Testing Requirements

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.

Other Updates

Spring 2017 STAAR Administrations

All STAAR assessments will be available both on paper and online. This includes

- STAAR grade 5 science
- STAAR grade 8 science
- STAAR biology

Spring 2017 STAAR Administrations

All online tests are available with three types of supports for qualifying students

- Text-to-speech
- Language supports
- Content supports

Supports are made available based on individual students' needs

Spring 2017 Test Administrations

New tools available for all students taking tests online

- Pencil
- Color
- Zoom
- Guideline

Updated Resources Now Available

- District and Campus Coordinator Manual
- Test Administrator Manuals
- Accommodation Resources
- Online Test Tutorials

Release of STAAR Tests

TEA will release the spring 2017 (first administration) STAAR assessments in August 2017.

Sign up to be invited to our educator committees

Review and give feedback on STAAR questions that are being developed

Most meetings take place over the summer

Committees are composed of educators from across the state

Recommendation form available at:

<http://www.cvent.com/d/xrqgnz>

Questions?

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Call TEA Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536.

Email TEA Student Assessment Division at student.assessment@tea.texas.gov.

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