Information for Administering the Optional Online Technology-Enhanced Item Pilot

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is working to improve the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) assessment experience over the next five years. One way of doing this is by introducing technology-enhanced items (TEI) that create more engaging content and allow for higher-order thinking skills. TEA is piloting a few TEI items for grades 3–8 during the spring 2018 STAAR online administrations.

The TEI pilot

- is only available for students testing online;
- is optional for students;
- must be taken after a student completes and submits the STAAR online assessment;
- must be completed on the same day as the STAAR online assessment;
- is not included in the STAAR time limit;
- uses the students’ same test ticket to log in;
- includes sample items that are not specifically aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS);
- includes up to five TEI sample questions, with features such as
  - drag-and-drop,
  - hot spots,
  - multiple select, and
  - constructed response/equations; and
- does not affect students’ scores.

Directions for Test Administrators

Test administrators must inform students about the TEI pilot prior to administering STAAR online assessments. If students are going to participate in the TEI pilot, they should log in to the pilot after submitting the STAAR test. Students should be informed that the pilot

- is optional (students do not have to participate),
- does not affect their STAAR scores,
- consists of up to five questions of a different type,
- should be completed after their STAAR test is submitted, and
- uses the same test ticket.

NOTE: Attempting to log into the TEI Pilot before submitting the STAAR assessment will result in an error message.
Students should log in to the TEI pilot after submitting their STAAR summative assessment. They should use the same test ticket for the pilot as they used for STAAR.