

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Program Changes in the 2014-2015 School Year

There are several major changes planned for the STAAR program in the 2014–15 school. These changes include:

- *Mathematics Curriculum Transition.* A new mathematics curriculum will be taught for the first time in grades 3–8 in 2014–2015. The corresponding STAAR mathematics assessments will be administered as a special operational administration with subsequent review of item statistics in spring 2015.
- *STAAR A.* In response to new federal accountability requirements, students who previously took the STAAR Modified assessment will take an accommodated version of the general STAAR assessments (STAAR A) starting in 2014–2015. The transition from STAAR Modified to STAAR A will be challenging for students, especially if phase-in 2 is implemented.
- *STAAR Alternate.* A new STAAR Alternate assessment will be administered for the first time in 2014–2015. Unlike its previous iteration, the new STAAR Alternate assessment includes standardized items and does not require teachers to prepare assessment tasks or materials. Please note that decisions about performance standards for the STAAR Alternate assessments will be made separately as part of the standard-setting process following the first administration in spring 2015.
- *Redesigned STAAR English Assessments.* The 2014–2015 school year will be the fourth year that most STAAR EOC assessments have been administered. However, it will only be the second year that the redesigned STAAR English assessments will be administered. Moreover, the field-test burden for STAAR English assessments will be lessened in spring 2015 by removing the field test written composition prompt. Please note that even though the blueprint of the STAAR English assessments has changed, the assessed curriculum has not.
- *Progress Measures.* No progress measures will be computed for students taking STAAR A and STAAR Alternate because 2014–2015 will be the first year of administering these new assessments. No progress measures will be computed for STAAR mathematics assessments in 2014–2015 because of the mathematics curriculum transition.
- *Released Tests.* STAAR items will be released for the second time following the spring 2014 administration. The additional item release should help educators and students become more familiar with the assessed content on the STAAR assessment and could potentially impact student performance on the 2014–2015 assessments.