

Proposed Release Plan for STAAR Assessments

During the 83rd Texas legislative session, House Bill 5 (HB 5) amended the Texas Education Code requiring TEA to release STAAR assessments to the general public. The HB 5 requirements for the release of STAAR assessments are listed below.

Texas Education Code, §39.023, Adoption and Administration of Instruments
<p>(e) Under rules adopted by the State Board of Education, every third year, the agency shall release the questions and answer keys to each assessment instrument administered under Subsection (a), (b), (c), (d), or (l), excluding any assessment instrument administered to a student for the purpose of retaking the assessment instrument, after the last time the instrument is administered for that school year. To ensure a valid bank of questions for use each year, the agency is not required to release a question that is being field-tested and was not used to compute the student's score on the instrument. The agency shall also release, under board rule, each question that is no longer being field-tested and that was not used to compute a student's score. During the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, the agency shall release the questions and answer keys to assessment instruments as described by this subsection each year.</p> <p>Note: a – grades 3–8 assessments b – alternate assessments for students receiving special education services c – EOC assessments d – multistate voluntary standardized EOC assessments l – Spanish assessments for grades 3–5</p>
Texas Education Code, §39.025(f), Secondary-Level Performance Required
<p>(3) the agency may defer releasing assessment instrument questions and answer keys as required by Section 39.023(e) to the extent necessary to develop additional assessment instruments.</p>

Due to both a substantive revision to the mathematics TEKS in grades 3-8 and the development of new assessments (STAAR A and STAAR Alternate) for students receiving special education services, the ability to release varies across the STAAR program, particularly in 2014-2015. The following is a proposed release schedule for 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 that accounts for the revisions to the mathematics TEKS, the development of STAAR A, and design of STAAR Alternate.

Academic Year	STAAR General Assessments (including STAAR 3-8, STAAR Spanish, and STAAR EOC)	STAAR 3-8 Mathematics	STAAR A	STAAR Alternate
2014-2015	Full Release	Partial Release	No Release	No Release
2015-2016	Full Release	Full Release	Full Release	Full Release

The following considerations were addressed in determining this proposed release schedule:

- In 2014-2015, a partial release of STAAR 3-8 mathematics is preferable due to the degree of overlap between the base tests and the special forms for STAAR A, L, and Braille. A partial release also provides some information to the field regarding item types, content, and performance expectations of the new mathematics tests without compromising the integrity of the base tests.
- In 2014-2015, a non-release of STAAR A is recommended due to the very limited number of newly developed and accommodated items available in the item bank. Because the source tests for STAAR A in 2014-2015 are aligned with those for STAAR L and Braille, a non-release would also preserve these test forms for future use.
- In 2014-2015, a non-release of STAAR Alternate is recommended because the program has been redesigned and, as a result, has a limited number of items available with which to build future forms.
- STAAR L is not included in the proposed plan because legislation does not require the assessment to be released; however, tutorials containing sample and practice items are available to the general public.