



Connally ISD

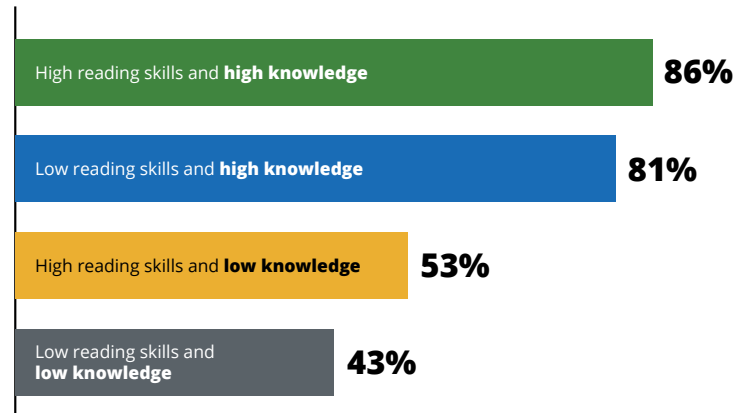
CROSS-CURRICULAR KNOWLEDGE: A KEY TO READING

In order to read well, students must master the skill of decoding using phonics. But they must also acquire a lot of background knowledge, learning the vocabulary of history, science, art, and geography, as well as literature.¹⁸



Students who have high levels of background knowledge and high decoding skills have the highest levels of reading comprehension.

MEASURE OF COMPREHENSION¹⁹



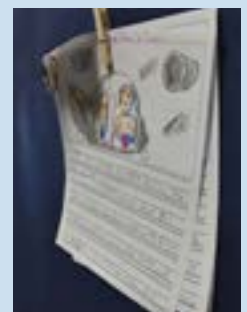
STAAR reading passages are now selected to prioritize content students have been taught in other subjects, such as social studies and science, reflecting the importance of background knowledge in literacy.



We strive to make reading and writing the focus in each classroom for every child, every day.



– Lubbock ISD



STAAR is Changing to Reinforce Strong Literacy Instruction

Ensuring students can read well is at the foundation of each school's mission. To support schools in this mission, the legislature has acted in recent years to provide increased funding, ensured the availability of training and strengthened early years phonics practices.

The legislature also required a significant redesign of the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) to ensure it more closely aligns with effective classroom practices, especially in the area of reading. Required by legislation passed in the 2019 session (HB 3906), and shaped by hundreds of educators across the state, the redesigned STAAR will be administered in Spring 2023.¹⁷

WRITING ABOUT WHAT YOU READ



In many ways, reading and writing are inseparable skills. In order to read well, students must know how to spell and master common rules of grammar. These reading skills are most often achieved by writing. The more students write, the better readers they become, especially when they write about what they have recently read. The redesigned STAAR test will have students write in response to what they have read.