

Date: May 27, 2025

Subject: Notice of February 2026 STAAR Stand-Alone Field Test

To the Superintendent, Education Service Center Director, and District and Regional Testing Coordinators Addressed:

The purpose of this communication is to notify Texas school systems (public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools) of a required State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Stand-Alone Field Test to be administered in February 2026.

STAAR reading language arts (RLA) assessments in grades 3–8 and high school include extended constructed-response items. A stand-alone field test is necessary in the development of extended constructed-response items for use on future administrations of STAAR. Although the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has made a concerted effort to minimize the amount of instructional time used for state testing purposes generally and particularly for stand-alone field testing, a stand-alone field test is periodically needed.

February 2026 Administration

The stand-alone field test is scheduled for February 2–6, 2026. It will be administered online only and will include the following grades/subjects and courses:

- RLA grades 3–8
- English I and English II
- Spanish RLA grades 3–5

All students at a selected campus who are enrolled in an assigned grade or course and who are scheduled to take the corresponding STAAR assessment in spring 2026 should participate in the stand-alone field test. This includes emergent bilingual students and students who receive special education services, unless a student requires an accommodation that is not available for the field test. (Most online accommodations, including content and language supports, text-to-speech, and speech-to-text, will be available for students who need them, but American Sign Language and braille versions will not be available for the stand-alone field test.) Updating a student's required documentation is not necessary for participation in the field test or for accommodations used during the field test.

School systems may schedule the administration of the field test for any day during the one-week testing window. TEA will provide test administration instructions online. No paper test booklets, answer documents, or other print materials will be sent to school systems, nor will school systems receive data from the field-test administration.

Requirements for School Systems

As required by Texas Education Code Section [39.035](#), administering the February 2026 STAAR Stand-Alone Field Test is mandatory for those campuses that are selected to administer the English RLA versions and mandatory for **ALL** campuses who administer the operational STAAR Spanish RLA assessments. Field-test data from a sample of students who are representative of the state are critical to the state's ability to build high-quality assessments. TEA recognizes the challenges campuses face

regarding time and personnel resources when they are selected to participate in mandatory state testing activities, and your continued support of these crucial activities is greatly appreciated.

School systems will be notified of their selection to participate in the February 2026 STAAR Stand-Alone Field Test by August 22, 2025. The design of the sampling plan for the English RLA versions minimizes the assignments for each selected campus. Campuses that are not selected to participate in the stand-alone field test may volunteer to administer it. Campuses that are selected for a specific grade or course may also volunteer to administer additional grades and courses.

If you have any questions about the stand-alone field test, please submit them to TEA using the Student Assessment [Help Desk](#).

Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division
(512) 463-9536