



## Introduction to STAAR A A Guide for Parents

### What is STAAR A?

STAAR A is an online accommodated version of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) available for students with disabilities who meet eligibility requirements. The passing standards for STAAR A are the same as STAAR assessments. STAAR A provides embedded supports designed to help students with disabilities access the content being assessed.

STAAR A is administered online and includes the same basic online tools as other online assessments (e.g., notepad). In addition, STAAR A includes embedded accommodations to test selections and questions. The table below specifies features available to all students taking STAAR A.

Icon	Name	Purpose
	Guideline	You can use <b>Guideline</b> to help you keep your place while reading selections
	Zoom	You can use <b>Zoom</b> to make everything on your screen larger.
	Color	You can use <b>Color</b> to change the colors you see on your screen
	Pop-ups	You can click on a word or phrase with a dotted underline, and helpful information will <b>Pop-up</b> .
	Rollovers	You can click on the <b>Rollover</b> button to show a different version of the sentences.
	Speak and Audio	You can use <b>Speak</b> to listen to certain parts of the test being read aloud. You can use <b>Audio</b> to adjust the volume and speed of the text being read aloud.
	Punnett Squares	You can use a <b>Punnett Square</b> on the biology test.
	Writing Checklists	You can use a <b>Writing Checklist</b> to check over your response to a writing prompt.

**Note:** Some tools are subject-specific and only appear in subject tests where they are relevant.

Specific embedded accommodations to STAAR A include pop-ups and rollovers. Pop-ups refer to a feature that provides definitions, synonyms, pictures, graphic organizers, formulas, and animations for non-content relevant words and concepts. Rollovers refer to a feature that rewords or clarifies larger portions of text or provides bulleted steps in a process.

## **Is my child eligible to take STAAR A?**

Students receiving the following services may be administered STAAR A in one or more subjects:

- Students with identified disabilities who are receiving special education services
- Students identified with dyslexia or a related disorder (as defined in Texas Education Code §38.003) who are receiving services under Section 504

If a student falls into one of these categories and receives accommodations during classroom instruction similar to those found in STAAR A, the STAAR A Eligibility Requirements document should be reviewed. Additional eligibility criteria found in that document must be met in order for a student to take STAAR A.

## **Where can I find more information about STAAR A?**

Many STAAR A resources are available. Prior to a STAAR A administration, it is recommended that students view the online tutorials and practice sets. These online resources will help students become familiar with accommodation types and various tools that are provided in the online tests. In addition, the practice sets will guide students through practice sets and test questions until they are comfortable with the STAAR A testing interface and accommodations. For more information about STAAR A and the resources available, visit TEA's [STAAR A Resources](#) webpage or call 512-463-9536.