

**Subject:** Updates to the Testing Calendar for 2018–2019, 2019–2020, and 2020–2021

August 6, 2018

To the District and ESC Testing Coordinator Addressed:

This communication is to notify you of updates to the 2018–2019 Student Assessment Testing Calendar, as well as the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 calendars. These calendars are posted on the Texas Education Agency’s (TEA) website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/calendars/>.

#### Updates to the 2018–2019 Student Assessment Testing Calendar

- Educator Service Center (ESC) training dates have been removed and will be available in the Calendar of Events along with all other required training dates.
- TEA will be conducting a stand-alone field test for the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) writing prompts—grade 4 writing English and Spanish, grade 7 writing, English I, and English II. The field test, which will be administered February 11–14, 2019, has been added. More information regarding this field test and the sampling plan will be communicated in a separate correspondence.
- The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) Alternate, an English language proficiency (ELP) assessment for English learners (ELs) with the most significant cognitive disabilities, has been added. TELPAS Alternate will be administered February 25–April 5, 2019, during the same window as the TELPAS assessment.
- STAAR Alternate 2 verification dates have been incorporated into the assessment window. Verification activities must be completed before the end of the window.
- To provide districts with additional flexibility around online testing, an extra week has been added at the end of the spring 2019 administrations so that most STAAR assessments will be offered online during a two-week testing window. Districts will have the flexibility to administer scheduled STAAR assessments online at any time during the two-week window for the April and May administrations. Please note that STAAR grade 4 writing, grade 7 writing, English I, English II, and English III are an exception to this policy and must be administered on the state-assigned dates, regardless of the mode of testing.
- There are no changes to the test administration dates for paper versions of STAAR. These assessments will continue to be administered during one week with state-assigned dates for grades 3–8, English I, English II, English III, and Algebra II assessments. Paper versions of STAAR Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History assessments will continue to be administered during a one-week window, and districts will have the flexibility to administer these assessments at any time during the one-week window.

#### Updates to the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 Student Assessment Testing Calendars

- There are no changes to the scheduled two-week testing windows for STAAR online administrations in April and May included in the draft versions of these calendars posted in June. However, as with previous years, the December and June administrations of

STAAR online assessments will be a one-week window. Additionally, testing dates for STAAR grade 4 writing, grade 7 writing, English I, English II, and English III will be state-assigned dates.

- Paper versions of STAAR will continue to be administered during one week with state-assigned dates for grades 3–8, English I, English II, English III, and Algebra II assessments. Paper versions of STAAR Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History assessments will continue to be administered during a one-week window, and districts will have the flexibility to administer these assessments at any time during the one-week window. However, the paper test administrations have moved one week later (during the second week of online testing) for the April and May administrations.

For questions concerning this information, contact the Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536.

Texas Education Agency  
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