

To the ESC and District Testing Coordinator Addressed:

This correspondence is intended to provide you with information about the 2020–2021 STAAR progress measures for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) and STAAR Alternate 2.

Background Information

The STAAR progress measure is calculated based on a student’s gain score—the scale score difference between the current year and the prior year, while STAAR Alternate 2 progress measures are determined by a student’s stage change from the prior year to the current year. Since STAAR testing was suspended for spring and summer 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19, this year’s calculation differs slightly and measures progress across *two* years, from 2018–2019 to 2020–2021.

Due to the gap year, it would be a rare scenario for students enrolled in grade 4 in the 2020–2021 school year to be enrolled in grade 3 in 2018–2019 school year. Therefore, STAAR progress measures will not be calculated for grade 4 students. English II progress measures for the 2020–2021 school year will use 2018–2019 school year English I scale scores as the prior year data.

STAAR progress measures will be calculated for STAAR and STAAR Alternate 2 for the following grade levels and subject areas:

- Grade 5 Reading English, Reading Spanish (STAAR only), Mathematics English, and Mathematics Spanish (STAAR only)
- Grade 6 Reading and Mathematics
- Grade 7 Reading and Mathematics
- Grade 8 Reading and Mathematics
- Algebra I
- English I (STAAR Alternate 2 only)
- English II

Use of the 2020–2021 STAAR Progress Measure

While 2020–2021 STAAR progress measure outcomes will be provided on STAAR data files, whether they will be used for 2021 academic accountability evaluations in the School Progress and Closing the Gaps domains in the same manner as in the past has yet to be determined.

The 2020–2021 STAAR progress measure will be included on STAAR Report Cards and in the Student Portal to help parents gauge their child’s academic performance from 2018–2019 to 2020–2021. Similar to previous years, STAAR progress measures will not be included on STAAR Alternate 2 Report Cards. When interpreting this year’s STAAR progress measure outcomes, districts and parents should be mindful of the unusual instructional, social interruption and learning conditions of the 2020–2021 school year, as well as that this year’s STAAR progress measure calculation varies from the traditional adjacent prior year to current year methodology. Further, districts should exercise caution when using this year’s outcomes for evaluation or planning purposes (e.g., district/campus goal setting) and should use this data point in conjunction with other, more stable data points. Districts should not use this data point to measure student growth for the Teacher Incentive Allotment.

In addition, the Parent’s Guide to the STAAR Progress Measure will be updated to include information about the 2020–2021 STAAR progress measure in early 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact the Performance Reporting Division at (512) 463-9704 or performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov.

Thank you.

Performance Reporting Division
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