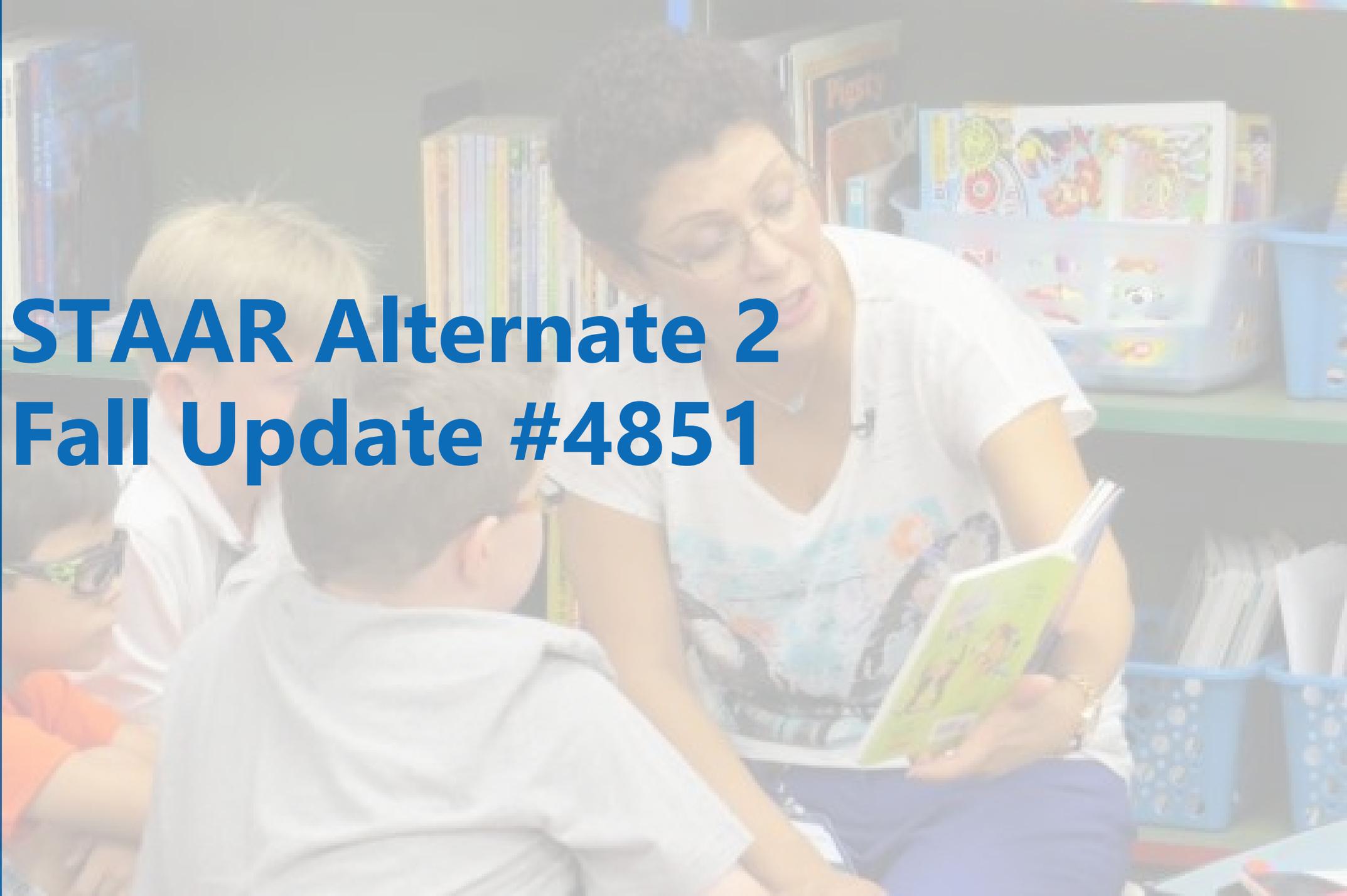


# STAA Alternate 2 Fall Update #4851

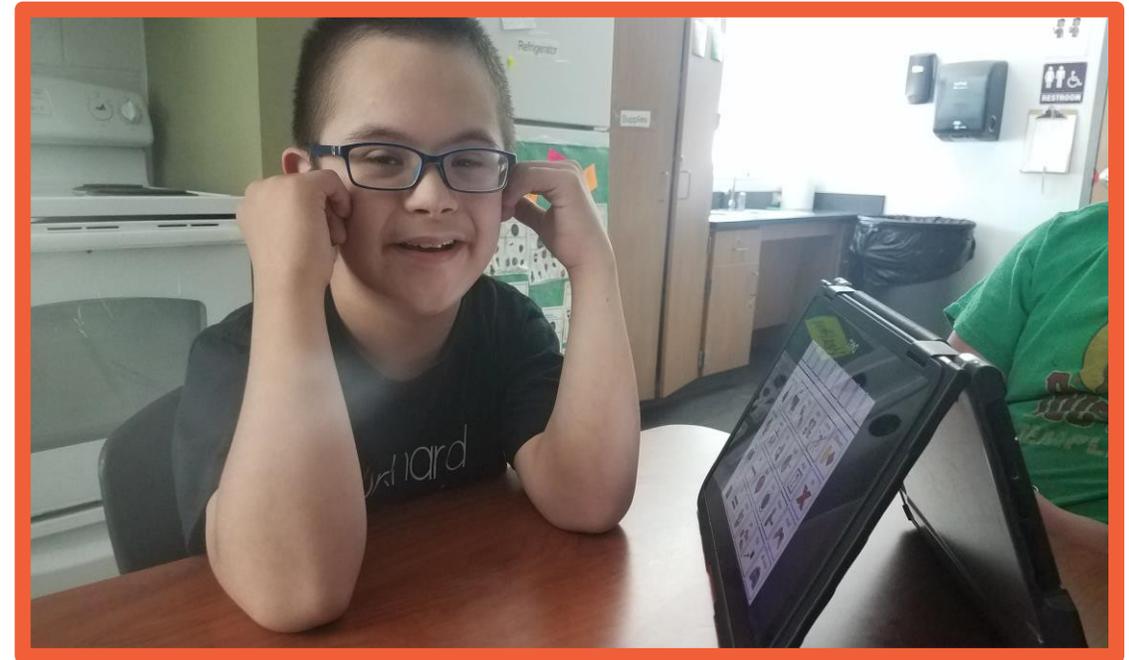




# Who takes STAAR Alternate 2?

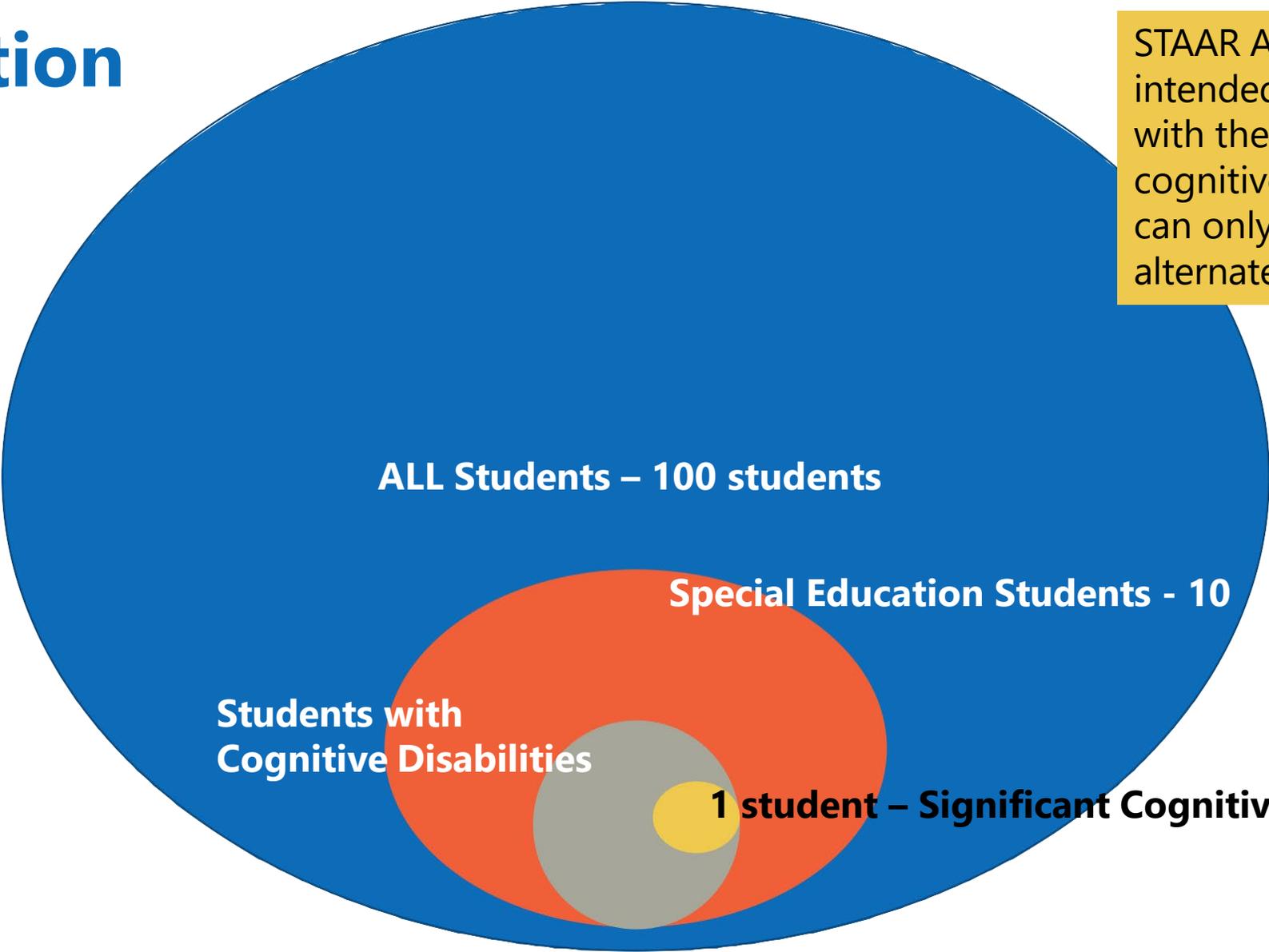
## A student with a significant cognitive disability

- exhibits significant intellectual and adaptive behavior deficits in their ability to plan, comprehend, and reason, and ALSO indicates adaptive behavior deficits that limit their ability to apply social and practical skills such as personal care, social problem-solving skills, dressing, eating, using money, and other functional skills across life domains;
- is NOT identified based on English learner designation or solely based on previous low academic achievement or the need for accommodations; and
- requires extensive, direct, individualized instruction, as well as a need for substantial supports that are neither temporary nor specific to a particular content area.



# Participation Rates

STAAR Alternate 2 is intended only for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who can only access an alternate assessment.



# Evidence must be provided to support the reason for an alternate assessment

- The student has a significant cognitive disability according to the Texas definition.
- The student requires specialized, extensive supports to access grade-level curriculum and the student's environment.
- The student requires intensive, individualized instruction in all instructional settings.
- The student accesses and participates in grade-level TEKS through pre-requisite skills.
- The student's eligibility is NOT based on the student's racial or economic background, English learner status, excessive or extended absences, location of service delivery, anticipated disruptive behavior or emotional distress, or any other such factors.

# Participation Requirements Resources

State-Required Form

**STAAR ALTERNATE 2 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of District Personnel Completing Form \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 1: Review the Eligibility Criteria for STAAR Alternate 2**  
 Prior to reviewing the eligibility criteria for STAAR Alternate 2, the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee must understand all assessment options, including the characteristics of each assessment and the potential implications of each assessment choice. STAAR Alternate 2 is a statewide assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. STAAR Alternate 2 may only be considered if the student's disability includes intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior deficits that primarily and significantly affect the student's ability to plan, comprehend, reason, and apply social and practical skills in everyday life.  
 If STAAR Alternate 2 is being considered, the ARD committee must review the five criteria below and select **Yes** or **No** if applicable to the student. To be eligible to participate in STAAR Alternate 2, the answer to all five of the questions below must be **Yes**. If the answer to any one of the questions is **No**, the student is not eligible to participate in STAAR Alternate 2 and must participate in STAAR. Each **Yes** answer requires a justification that contains evidence that the student meets the criterion.

**1. Does the student have a significant cognitive disability?**  Yes  No

- A determination of significant cognitive disability is made by the ARD committee and must be based on the student's most recent full and individual evaluation (FIE) conducted by the multidisciplinary team that includes a licensed specialist in school psychology (LSSP), educational diagnostician, or other appropriately certified or licensed practitioner with experience and training in the area of the disability. AND
- Results from the FIE must indicate a deficit in the student's ability to plan, comprehend, and reason. FIE results must also indicate adaptive behavior deficits that limit a student's ability to apply social and practical skills such as personal care, social problem-solving skills, dressing and eating, using money, and other functional skills across life domains. It is unlikely to see these types of results in a FIE of a student with a high-incidence disability only, such as a specific learning disability or speech impairment.

Enter justification that must include data from the FIE as evidenced by intellectual and adaptive evaluation information:  
 This text box has a 550-character limit.

**2. Does the student require specialized, extensive supports to access the grade-level curriculum and environment?**  Yes  No

- Federal regulations mandate that all students have access to grade-level curriculum. A student with a significant cognitive disability requires extensive, repeated, specialized supports and materials beyond the support typical peers require. The student uses substantially modified materials to access information in alternate ways to acquire, maintain, generalize, demonstrate and transfer skills across all settings. AND
- A student with a significant cognitive disability demonstrates adaptive behaviors that are significantly impaired. This most likely will impact the student's ability to live independently and will require specialized supports for the student to function safely in daily life across all life domains, not just the school environment.

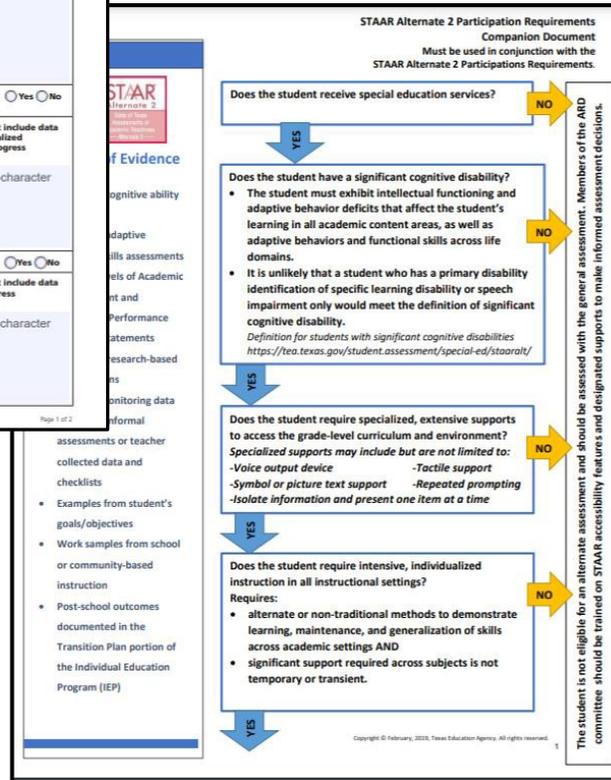
Enter justification that must include data from the student's individualized education program (IEP), progress monitoring, and/or the FIE:  
 This text box has a 450-character limit.

**3. Does the student require intensive, individualized instruction in all instructional settings?**  Yes  No

- A student with a significant cognitive disability requires a highly specialized, individualized curriculum linked to functional and academic IEP goals and objectives. AND
- A student with a significant cognitive disability requires classroom assessments administered in alternate or non-traditional methods to demonstrate acquisition, maintenance, and generalization of discrete skills across academic settings. AND
- A student with a significant cognitive disability requires individualized instruction that is neither temporary nor limited to specific content areas.

Enter justification that must include data from the student's IEP, progress monitoring, and/or the FIE:  
 This text box has a 550-character limit.

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- Participation Requirements document
  - [STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements](#)
- Participation Requirements Companion document
  - [STAAR Alternate 2 Companion Document](#)

# January Training Module

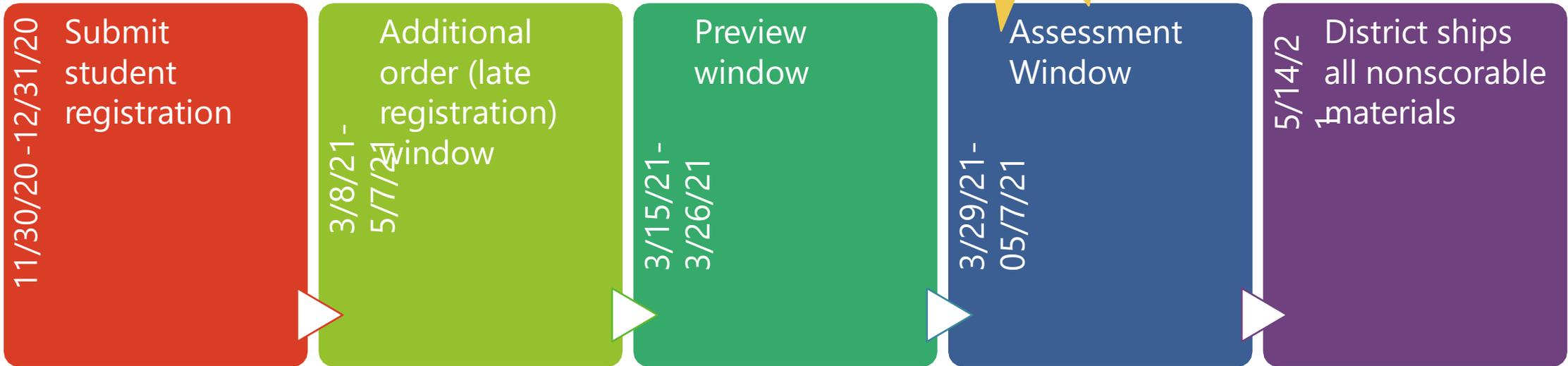
## Supplemental STAAR Alternate 2 Training Module 1

- Provides the participant with an overview of the STAAR Alternate 2 assessment
- Provides guidance on how to use STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements to make assessment decisions
- Provides case studies to assist the participant in making assessment decisions regarding eligibility
- Answers most frequently asked STAAR Alternate 2 administration questions



# STAAR Alternate 2 Key Dates 2020-2021

6 weeks  
instead of 3!



# STAAR Alternate 2 Preview Window

- Preview Window, March 15 – March 26
- Testing Window, March 29 – May 7
- Because testing window has been extended from three weeks to six weeks, there will be no approvals for extended preview window for Spring 2021.
- Test administrators can preview materials and prepare accommodations during the testing window up until the day for testing to begin.

# Important Registration Information

## Students who enroll on or after March 29, 2021

A student who transfers/moves to a **NEW** district on or after the first day of the STAAR Alternate 2 testing window

- is not required to be tested.
- The new district should register the student and mark the tests with an "O" score code.

A student who transfers/moves within the **SAME** district on or after the first day of testing window

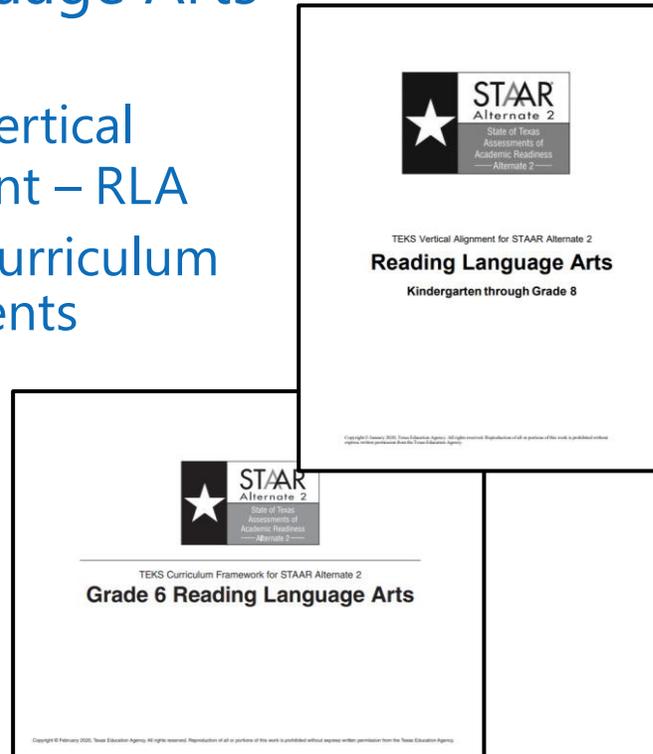
- must be tested.

# STAAR Alternate 2 Webpage Updates

## ■ Spring Webpage Updates

### ■ NEW Reading Language Arts TEKS

- March 2020 NEW Vertical Alignment document – RLA
- March 2020 NEW Curriculum Framework documents
  - Grade 3 RLA
  - Grade 4 RLA
  - Grade 5 RLA
  - Grade 6 RLA
  - Grade 7 RLA
  - Grade 8 RLA



## ■ Fall Webpage Updates

### ■ Social Studies/US History

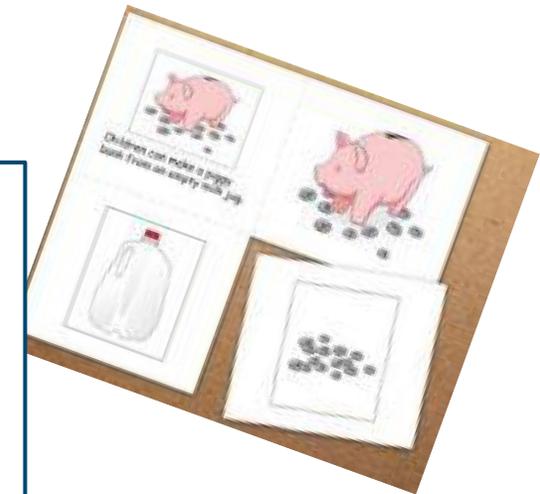
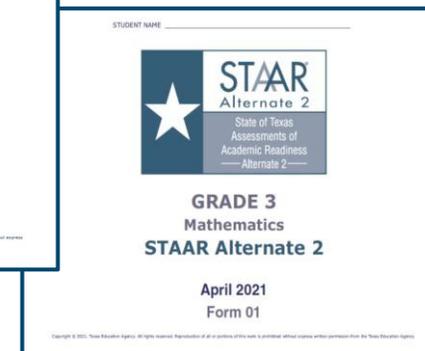
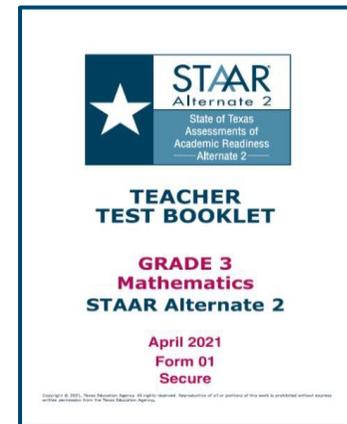
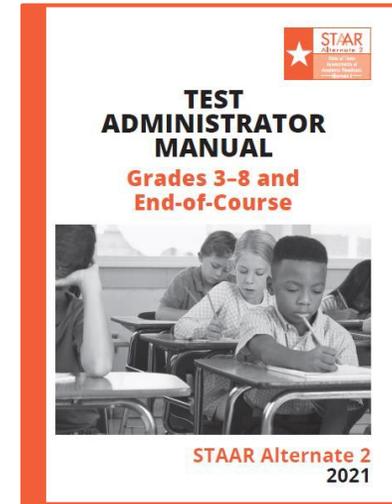
- 2020 NEW Vertical Alignment
- NEW Curriculum Framework documents
  - Grade 8 Social Studies
  - US History

### ■ ELA Vertical Alignment

- ### ■ All grades/subjects
- Essence Statements
  - Instructional Terms

# STAAR Alternate 2 Test Material Updates

- STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual will be an online-only document.
- The STAAR Alternate 2 Test Booklets will ONLY contain secure test material.
- Test kit contains Teacher Test Booklet (new name), Student Booklet, and Image Cards.
- New covers for all booklets.



# 2021 Test Administration Updates

The image shows a sample of the STAAR Alternate 2 Scoring Document. At the top, it features the STAAR logo and the title "STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENTS OF ACADEMIC READINESS ALTERNATE 2 Scoring Document". Below the title are fields for "Student Name:", "Grade:", "Subject:", and "Form Number:". There is also a checkbox for "Translated Student Materials" with "Yes" and "No" options. A section titled "Accommodations" includes a table with two columns: "Color or Highlight Images", "Color Overlays", "Photographs or Objects Paired with Text", "Textured Materials", "Demonstrate Concepts", "Raise or Darken Outline", "Enlarge Images or Text", and "Braille" in the first column; and "Describe Images", "Provide images or text separately", "Cover or Isolate Images", "Picture Representations", "Calculator, manipulatives, math tools", "Reread Text (prior to 'Find' statement)", and "Provide Structured Reminders" in the second column. Below this is a "Scoring" section with a note: "Mark the student's score for each question. Grades 4 and 7 writing forms have only 24 questions. For these forms, cross out numbers 25-28 on this document." This is followed by two columns of question numbers (1-16 and 17-28) with three-choice options (A, B, C) next to each number.

- Due to inability to field test items in 2020, those 4 field test items will be included in the 2021 administration in addition to 2021 field test items.
- All grades/subjects except for Writing 4 & 7 will have 28 test items versus previous year's 24 test items.
- Scoring Document
  - Only 24 of the spaces are needed for Writing 4 & 7
  - When scoring Gr. 4 & 7 Writing tests, cross out the numbers 25, 26, 27, 28 on the scoring document.

The STAAR Alternate 2 Scoring Document can also be found at <https://tx.mypearsonsupport.com/>



# Students Requiring Frequent Breaks

- Is it possible to pause testing in the middle of a four-item cluster?

- Four-item clusters in STAAR Alternate 2 build context from item 1-4. It is allowable to pause for a student break amidst the administration of the four item cluster, but best practice is to try and test through all four items and then allow a student break.

# Other Required Personnel in the Testing Room

- Some students who are assessed with STAAR Alternate 2 require assistance from personnel other than the classroom teacher such as personal nurses, related service personnel, etc. Can other individuals be in the classroom during testing?
- Test confidentiality must be observed and other students must be prevented from hearing or seeing test items prior to testing.
- Other school or private paid personnel who will have access to secure test material must have completed security training and signed the confidentiality oath.

# One Student Booklet for Multiple Students

- Can test administrators use one student booklet for multiple students? Image cards?
- If the student booklet remains a "clean" booklet with absolutely no marks or accommodations applied, it may be used for multiple students. Same is true for image cards.

# Cameras In The Classroom

- Can a test administrator administer STAAR Alternate 2 in a classroom that has cameras running?

- The current rule does not allow the student to be removed from the camera sight in lieu of test administration.
- *§103.1301. Video Surveillance of Certain Special Education Settings*

# Grades 3-8 Retesting

- Is a student in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 required to take STAAR Alternate 2 again if they are repeating a grade and have already been tested at that grade level?
- Yes, students in grades 3-8 must be tested at the enrolled grade level as required in Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.023(a). even if they have tested in the same grade level in the prior year.

# Waived EOC Assessments for Spring 2020

- Does EOC assessment guidance apply to students who take STAAR Alternate 2?
  - The required performance on academic assessments under TEC, §28.025(c) and §39.025(a) was waived for spring 2020.
  - For all students receiving special education services, the admission, review, and dismissal committee will continue to make educational decisions, including graduation decisions and decisions related to required performance on academic assessments. For all students who were scheduled to be administered a STAAR Alternate 2 EOC assessment in spring 2020, the assessment requirement is being waived. These students are not required to take the specific STAAR Alternate 2 EOC assessment in the future and are not responsible for passing the assessment to fulfill graduation requirements.



# 2019 ESSA 1% Waiver

- TEA's 2019 request to extend our waiver to assess more than 1% of students was not approved.
- U.S.D.E. cited that Texas continues to assess more than 1% of our assessed students on an alternate assessment.
- U.S.D.E. commented that Texas must provide evidence that we are addressing the disproportionality in the percentage of students taking the alternate assessment.
- TEA will request a new waiver for the 2020-2021 school year.

# Technical Assistance from ESCs

- Regional Testing Coordinators were given district data for districts
  - that had increased STAAR Alternate 2 participation rates for two years in a row and had a student enrollment over 200.
  - that had unusual data like GT students participating in STAAR Alternate 2 or students with disability code of Specific Learning Disability participating in STAAR Alternate 2
- Region Testing Coordinators and team were asked to complete a technical assistance report
  - explaining the technical assistance already provided to targeted districts
  - explaining technical assistance that is planned to targeted districts

# Technical Assistance Reports

- Technical Assistance reports will be used to complete the 2020 waiver to U.S.D.E. to show what we are doing in Texas to make sure only students with significant cognitive disabilities are participating in an alternate assessment.
- Technical Assistance to districts will result in lowered participation rates in the STAAR Alternate 2 assessment.

# TEA Division of Review and Support

- Monitoring language matches ESSA 1% language
- Monitoring same subjects as ESSA requires

# Use of Designated Supports

- STAAR Test Administrator Modules
  - Test Administrators well trained on the use of accommodations and designated supports will be able to make better informed assessment decisions.
    - STAAR Accessibility Features
    - Designated Supports – ESC Testing Coordinator Training
  - Examples where knowledge of STAAR accommodations are critical
    - students with physical disabilities that require transcription,
    - students with behavior disorder who require specialized supports,
    - students who are blind who require braille materials.
  - Coming Soon: STAAR Test Administrator modules – Accommodations

# 2020 ESSA 1% Waiver

- More guidance to come from U.S.D.E.
- Assurance information may be collected this fall from districts over 1% according to 2018 participation data.
- More information during December 2020 (To Be Announced)

# STAAR Alternate 2 Resources

Resource	Purpose	Audience
<a href="#">STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual</a>	Provides an overview of the STAAR Alternate 2 program and provides guidance regarding the entire administration of the assessment including scoring instructions.	Administrators Coordinators Teachers
<a href="#">STAAR Alternate 2 Educator Guide</a>	Provides in-depth guidance regarding presentation of test stimulus, communicating the directions, and administering accommodations.	Administrators Coordinators Teachers
<a href="#">STAAR Alternate 2 Curriculum Frameworks</a>	The STAAR Alternate 2 Curriculum Framework documents list the reporting categories, and TEKS for each grade/subject and EOC tested. The Curriculum Framework documents the access points in the TEKS that students are tested on.	Administrators Coordinators Teachers

# More STAAR Alternate 2 Resources

Resource	Purpose	Audience
<a href="#">STAAR Alternate 2 Instructional Terms</a>	The STAAR Alternate 2 Instructional Terms lists academic vocabulary that has been used globally in the alternate assessment. Lists are organized by subject and guide educators to know the type of academic language that has been and will be used on tests.	Coordinators Teachers
<a href="#">STAAR Alternate 2 Essence Statements</a>	The STAAR Alternate 2 Essence Statements are summary statements of the grade level TEKS and pre-requisite skills. Essence statements specific to the appropriate year's assessment are posted annually.	Coordinators Teachers
<a href="#">STAAR Alternate 2 Released Tests</a>	The STAAR Alternate 2 Released Tests are comprised of test items that have been previously administered. The STAAR Alternate 2 Released Tests include a Teacher Test Booklet and Student Booklet for each grade and subject tested. Correct answers are indicated by a red asterisk in the Teacher Test Booklet.	Administrators Coordinators Teachers

# Contact Information

Texas Education Agency's  
Student Assessment Division

- [DCCR Contact Information](#)
- [Student Assessment HelpDesk](#)

