STAAR Alternate 2
Fall Update #4851
STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administration
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

ALL Students – 100 students

Special Education Students - 10

Students with Cognitive Disabilities

1 student – Significant Cognitive Disability

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

- Participation Requirements document
  - STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements

- Participation Requirements Companion document
  - STAAR Alternate 2 Companion Document
## 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

- **Submit student registration**: 11/30/20 - 12/31/20
- **Additional order (late registration) window**: 3/8/21 - 5/7/21
- **Preview window**: 3/15/21 - 3/26/21
- **Assessment Window**: 3/29/21 - 5/7/21
- **District ships all nonscorable materials**: 5/14/21

*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.
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

- 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/
STAAR Alternate 2 Frequently Asked Questions
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.
STAAR Alternate 2 ESSA 1% Waiver
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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Audience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual</td>
<td>Provides an overview of the STAAR Alternate 2 program and provides guidance regarding the entire administration of the assessment including scoring instructions.</td>
<td>Administrators Coordinators Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAAR Alternate 2 Educator Guide</td>
<td>Provides in-depth guidance regarding presentation of test stimulus, communicating the directions, and administering accommodations.</td>
<td>Administrators Coordinators Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAAR Alternate 2 Curriculum Frameworks</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Administrators Coordinators Teachers</td>
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## More STAAR Alternate 2 Resources

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<td>STAAR Alternate 2 Instructional Terms</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Coordinators, Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAAR Alternate 2 Essence Statements</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Coordinators, Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAAR Alternate 2 Released Tests</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Administrators, Coordinators, Teachers</td>
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Contact Information

Texas Education Agency’s
Student Assessment Division

- DCCR Contact Information
- Student Assessment HelpDesk