

TO: Governor Abbott
Lieutenant Governor Patrick
Speaker Bonnen of the House of Representatives
Members of the 87th Texas Legislature

FROM: Texas Education Agency

DATE: September 30, 2020

RE: Postsecondary Readiness Assessment Instruments

House Bill 5 passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature, 2013, added Section 39.0238 to the Texas Education Code requiring the adoption and administration of postsecondary readiness assessment instruments for English III and Algebra II that a school district may administer at the district's option. The statute also requires the agency to provide the legislature a report on the summary of student performance on the preceding year's postsecondary readiness assessment instruments.

Because the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®), including STAAR English III and Algebra II end-of-course (EOC) assessments, were cancelled for spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no student performance data from 2020 is available for this report.

Attached is summary information from the spring 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 administrations of the STAAR English III and Algebra II EOC assessments.

Please contact Governmental Relations at GovRel@tea.texas.gov or 512-463-9682 if you have any questions.

Postsecondary Readiness Assessments

Summary Information	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Number of 11th Graders in Texas [†]	351,888	363,655	371,871	373,213	377,208
STAAR English III EOC Assessment					
Number of 11th Grade Students Assessed	10,337	10,076	9,179	4,624	N/A
Percent of 11th Grade Students Assessed [†]	2.9%	2.8%	2.5%	1.2%	N/A
Percent of Test Takers at Approaches Grade Level [§]	70%	71%	72%	75%	N/A
Percent of Test Takers at Masters Grade Level [¶]	13%	11%	13%	15%	N/A
Number of Districts/Charters Participating	74	53	47	27	N/A
Percent of Districts/Charters Participating	6.1%	4.4%	3.9%	2.3%	N/A
STAAR Algebra II EOC Assessment					
Number of 11th Grade Students Assessed	14,252	13,326	11,965	8,490	N/A
Percent of 11th Grade Students Assessed [†]	4.1%	3.7%	3.2%	2.3%	N/A
Percent of Test Takers at Approaches Grade Level [§]	79%	81%	77%	78%	N/A
Percent of Test Takers at Masters Grade Level [¶]	18%	23%	25%	22%	N/A
Number of Districts/Charters Participating	85	60	52	31	N/A
Percent of Districts/Charters Participating	7.0%	5.0%	4.3%	2.6%	N/A

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of state tests, no student performance data from 2020 is available.

[†]Students generally, but not exclusively, take English III in 11th grade. Students take Algebra II in a mix of grades. These percentages are included to give a sense of scope in terms of the percent of Texas students who take these assessments. These percentages are not meant to precisely reflect the percentage of students who take an EOC assessment as a function of the percent of students who participate in those classes.

[§]In the 2015–2016 school year, STAAR results were reported with the phrase “Level II: Satisfactory”. In the 2016–2017 school year, this terminology was changed to “Approaches Grade Level”. This is the minimum passing standard required for the other STAAR EOC assessments, which are required for graduation.

[¶]In the 2015–2016 school year, STAAR results were reported with the phrase “Level III: Advanced”. In the 2016–2017 school year, this terminology was changed to “Masters Grade Level”. This standard is roughly equivalent to the college readiness criteria recommended for the SAT and the ACT.