

STAAR Alternate 2 Fall Update

TETN #598

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This training in no way takes the place of reviewing required manuals or completing required training.

Key Dates

STAAR Alt 2 Test Materials

- Image Cards
- Color Student Booklets

Preview Window

Testing Window

Presentation Instructions

New Resources

- Science Vertical Alignment
- Science Curriculum Frameworks

1% Waiver

- Description
- Plan for Monitoring
- Waiver Submission

Key Dates 2018-2019

Enrollment Window

10/22/18 - 11/9/18

Preview Window

3/18/19 - 3/29/19

Testing Window

4/1/19 - 4/23/19

No verification window

All key STAAR Alternate 2 dates are referenced in the Test Administrator Manual & District and Campus Coordinator Resource

Key Dates 2018-2019

Students who transfer/move to a new district ON OR AFTER the first day of the STAAR Alternate 2 testing window do not have to be tested.

Students who transfer within the same district on or after the first day of the STAAR Alternate 2 testing window still must be tested by the district where the student is enrolled.

STAAR Alternate 2 Test Materials

- **One teacher booklet (Test Administrator Manual), one student booklet, one set of image cards per student (bundled), scoring document**
- **STAAR Alternate 2 scoring document**
 - In the back section of each test administrator manual
 - Under "Support" in Pearson Access Next

- **2018 Test Administrator survey indicated overwhelming support of image cards.**
- **Survey responses indicated 85% of test administrators reported a significant reduction in prep time.**
- **Test administrators comments included**
 - "Loved the color pictures!"
 - "a big help and an improvement over past years"
 - "greatly cut down on the time I had to prepare tests"
 - "great for students who need to be presented with answer choices one at a time"

- **STAAR Alternate 2 must be administered with the student booklet.**
- **Image cards are optional.**
- **A test administrator may use image cards for multiple students:**
 - NO appearance of reuse whatsoever –
 - No accommodations applied (e.g. highlighting, coloring, cropping, etc.)
 - Examples of ways “clean” image cards may be used for multiple students
 - Pairing with text
 - Presenting answer choices one at a time

Test administrators should utilize image cards in the same way they previously accommodated the student booklet page.

EXAMPLES of accommodations that image cards may replace:

- Photocopying and then cutting apart answer choices in order to present answer choices one at a time
- Photocopying and then cutting out an image to pair with text
- Other accommodations that required photocopying and then making a "card" to assist with test administration

Image cards have a number stamp on the back to correspond with test items.

On rare occasions, test items do not have an accompanying image card due to nature of the stimulus.

STAAR Alternate 2 Student Booklets

- **Survey results revealed overwhelming positive responses to color images in the STAAR Alternate 2 student booklet.**
- **2019 Administration: student booklet images will be in full color except for**
 - historical photos, and
 - Images where color is found to be distracting (e.g. multiple sets of geometric shapes, line drawings that appear more simple in black and white, etc.).

Test Materials – Ordering

- **“Districts submit participation counts” window (10/22 – 11/9) on the Calendar of Events updated to accept student registrations.**
- **Initial orders will be shipped based on students registered during this time, not enrollment estimates as in previous years.**
- **In the Assessment Management System:**
 1. Reference the “Student Data File Format for Student Registration and Precoding” available under Support>Documentation.
 2. From *Setup > Import/Export Data*.
 3. Open the Select Tasks list, select “Import/Export Data,” and click *Start*.
 4. Select “Student Registration Import” from the Type dropdown menu.
 5. Click Choose File and navigate to the file to import and click *Process*.

Test Materials – Ordering (cont.)

- Enrollment counts for large print should be submitted during the “Districts submit participation counts” window (10/22-11/9).
- Districts will receive an initial shipment of Large Print materials submitted during this time.
- Large Print Test Books will be shipped as a kit that includes a LP Student Book, Teacher Book, and Image Cards.
- Submit student enrollment counts for large print materials.
 1. From *Setup > Organizations*.
 2. Search for and select the campus(es) to edit.
 3. Open task and select “Edit Enrollment Counts” and click **Start**.
 4. Enter Large Print counts and click **Save**.

For more information on ordering:

STAAR Alternate 2 Assessment Management System Users Guide

Test Materials - Ordering

DETAILS

AOC EL (260999101)

Save Reset

Click the plus sign (+) to enter enrollment counts or view student registration counts.

Enrollment Counts Entry Complete

[Show Organization Details](#)

| Grade / Course | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Grade / Course | Student | Enrollment |
| | Registration | Large Print Counts |
| Grade 3 | Registered: 3 | 2 |
| Grade 4 | Registered: 1 | 2 |
| Grade 5 | Registered: 1 | 10 |
| Grade 6 | | 10 |
| Grade 7 | | 10 |
| Grade 8 | | 10 |
| Algebra I | Registered: 1 | 10 |
| Biology | Registered: 1 | 10 |
| English I | Registered: 1 | 10 |
| English II | Registered: 1 | 10 |
| U.S. History | | 10 |

Once the testing window has closed, test administrators should return all secure materials to the campus coordinator, including:

- used and unused student booklets, including large-print test booklets;
- used and unused image cards;
- secure STAAR Alternate 2 test administrator manuals;
- STAAR Alternate 2 Scoring Documents; and
- photocopies or any other type of reproduction of secure test materials, if used.

Preview Window for Test Administration

- **Practice reading the script and following the presentation instructions for test.**
- Review the Scoring Instructions for test questions and **plan teacher assistance** for items 2 and 3 in each cluster.
- Review the student booklet and image cards to plan and **prepare accommodations** for any student who may need an accommodation according to the guidelines outlined in the "Accommodations" section of the test administrator manual.
- **Any presentation of materials or introduction of concepts or topics to a student prior to the administration of the test is considered a serious irregularity and should be reported as such.**

STAAR Alternate 2 is an untimed assessment, and the test does not have to be given in one session. Some timing options include

- Administering the assessment at a time that is most appropriate for a student;
- Allowing breaks, as necessary;
- Administering the test over several days with several sessions per day; or
- Administering the test over several days, one session each day.

Items are best tested with the entire four-item cluster in tact, one cluster at a time. However, frequent breaks within the cluster administration may be required and necessary for some students.

Bolded text in the Presentation Instructions can be:

- stated as written,
- signed,
- translated into any other language routinely used with the student in instruction,
- provided in written form, or,
- paired with tactile or picture symbols.

Information in the reading passages and text of Stimulus A and B cannot be paraphrased, simplified, or shortened and must be presented as they appear in the stimulus.

STAAR Alternate 2 Resource Materials

Updated Science Vertical Alignment and Curriculum Framework documents for STAAR Alternate 2

- Includes streamlined science TEKS for grades 5 and 8 and for Biology
- Effective August 27, 2018
- Implemented in classrooms beginning with the 2018-2019 school year

Look for an October posting at

<https://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/special-ed/staaralt/>

OCTOBER POSTINGS

- Updated STAAR Alternate 2 Educator Guide
- *NEW revised Medical Exception Eligibility Requirements (English & Spanish)
- *NEW revised No Authentic Academic Response (English & Spanish)
- Updated Instructional Terms Lists
- Updated Essence Statements
- Revised STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual (non-secure portion)

Oaths for 2018-2019 School Year

- **Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the general oath will no longer be found in the back of STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual.**
- **The new online District and Campus Coordinator Resources (DCCR) includes the new interactive oath.**

STAAR ALTERNATE 2 WAIVER

TEA's 2018 request for a limited waiver to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an alternate assessment in the 2017-2018 school year in reading/language arts, science and mathematics was approved by the United States Department of Education (USDE) in March, 2018.

Based on State assessment data for 2017-2018, TEA will be requesting a waiver for the 2018-2019 school year in order to assess more than 1.0 percent of students.

Waiver Request (2nd year)

Districts should only have very few (if any) students who have been identified as eligible for the No Authentic Academic Response (NAAR) and Medical Exception (ME) exception from STAAR Alternate 2.

As of June 2018, many other states who were denied their waiver request failed to show that at least 95% of all students and 95% of students with disabilities participated in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science assessments

Districts should closely adhere to eligibility requirements for

STAAR Alt. 2 Waiver Request (2nd year)

| Based on 2017-2018 Data | Number | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Alternate 2 Tests, All Students Mathematics | 40,646 | 1.4% |
| All Students, STAAR Mathematics | 2,804,047 | |
| Alternate 2 Tests, All Students Reading/ELA | 45,392 | 1.3% |
| All Students, STAAR Reading/ELA | 3,487,018 | |
| Alternate 2 Tests, All Students Science | 16,780 | 1.3% |
| All Students, STAAR Science | 1,271,379 | |

2016-2017
1.2%

2016-2017
1.2%

STAAR Alternate 2 Waiver Request (2nd year)

- **A state may not prohibit a district from assessing more than 1% of its assessed students with an alternate academic assessment.**
- **In order to complete the waiver request, school districts/charter schools will be required to submit information justifying the need of the school district/charter school to assess more than 1% of its assessed students with STAAR Alternate 2.**
- **School districts/charters will provide assurances that if they will assess more than 1% of students using STAAR Alternate 2, they have followed all State guidelines determining eligibility and that they will address any subgroup disproportionality in the percentage of students taking STAAR Alternate 2.**
- **States will make the information submitted by an school**

How to submit:

- School districts/charters will receive an email notification indicating that based on 2017-2018 data the LEA assessed more than 1% of its assessed students with STAAR Alternate 2.
 - Email will include a PDF attachment of district/charter specific STAAR Alternate 2 participation data
 - Email will include a link to complete the waiver form.
- Email notification will be sent to the Superintendent of the school district or the Chief Administrative Official of the charter school and copied to DTCs.
- Districts/charters will receive an email acknowledgement that the district's waiver information has been received.

Definition of students with a significant cognitive disability:

- exhibit significant intellectual and adaptive behavior deficits in their ability to plan, comprehend, and reason, and ALSO indicate 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;
- are NOT identified based on English learner designation or solely on the basis of previous low academic achievement or the need for accommodations; and
- require extensive, direct, individualized instruction, as well as a need for substantial supports that are neither temporary nor specific to a particular content area.

Revised Participation Requirements

The STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements were revised in order to

- clarify the scope of students who are taking STAAR Alternate 2 and
- satisfy requirements of ESSA 2015.

TETN STAAR Alternate 2 2018-2019 Participation Requirement Training (5/8/2018) can be found at

<https://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/special-ed/staaralt/>

In order to demonstrate substantial progress towards achieving each component of the USDE plan and timeline:

- TEA is currently working to revise the data validation monitoring plan for districts over 1%.
- TEA will be requesting information from districts over the 1% threshold for the 2018-2019 waiver.
- TEA is providing specific 1% Waiver Training on October 2 at the ESC training.
- TEA is developing additional training for districts.

TEA TELPAS and STAAR Alternate 2 teams thank you for participating in this training.

Please take our survey and provide the team with your valuable feedback:

[FILL OUT IN GOOGLE FORMS](#)



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