

Optional Beginning-of-Year (BOY) Assessments Parent Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - September 10, 2020

Overview and Registration

1. What are the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) assessments?

BOY assessments are an optional tool parents and schools can use in grades 4-12 to diagnose student understanding of the 2019-2020 school-year curriculum., as they begin the next school year.

2. How are the BOY assessments meant to be administered?

The BOY assessments are meant to serve as a diagnostic starting point for the 2020–2021 school year that helps inform instructional choices. To assist districts and parents in measuring students’ understanding of the TEKS from the previous school year, BOY assessments are best administered to students based on their 2019–2020 enrolled grade level (e.g., a student entering 4th grade in fall 2020 should be administered the grade 3 math and grade 3 reading BOY tests).

For high school students moving to the next course in their sequence, parents may find value in administering the BOY assessment for the course they completed during the 2019–2020 school year. For example, many districts offer Geometry after Algebra I. Students enrolled in Geometry for the 2020–2021 school year may be administered the Algebra I BOY assessment in early fall 2020. Alternatively, parents may want to administer BOY assessments to students who did not successfully complete a course in the 2019–2020 school year and are repeating the course in fall 2020.

3. Do I have to register my child for testing?

If your child is enrolled in a district that is participating in the BOY assessment, you should not register. You should only register your child if you would like him or her to test and the enrolled district is not participating in the BOY assessment. Click here for the [Parent Registration Form](#).

Updated 9.10.20 4. **When is the registration window and when will BOY assessments be available?**The registration window for parents will open Monday, August 24, 2020, and will remain open until Friday, October 9, 2020. Students will be able to take the test until Friday, October 16, 2020.

5. **Where on the 2020 Fall Optional Beginning-of-Year Assessment parent registration form can I indicate that my child is receiving instruction above his/her current enrolled grade level and should be taking an above grade level/EOC test?**

To indicate the need for an above current enrolled grade level test (s); a separate registration will need to be completed for each grade level. For example, if your

child is taking a grade 3 test, as well as a grade 4 test, then you will need to complete and submit this registration form twice (one for grade 3 and one for grade 4).

It is not necessary to submit a separate registration form for End-of-Course (EOC) tests. For EOC, the subject test can be selected on the same student registration form.

6. How can I ensure that my child will be provided access to the Spanish version of test?

You will need to indicate that your child will be testing in Spanish on the designated field of the 2020 Fall Optional Beginning-of-Year Assessment parent registration form. Spanish versions are only available for grades 3-5.

7. How can I ensure that my child will have access to an oral test administration (using Text-to-Speech)?

If your child needs the contents of the test to be read aloud, because he normally receives these accommodations, you will need to indicate that your child will require Text-to-Speech on the designated field of the 2020 Fall Optional Beginning-of-Year Assessment parent registration form.

After Registration

1. What should I do if my child is having problems logging in?

Students with a parent registration must follow the steps listed below using a device that meets the requirements for testing.

- 1) Go to tx.schoolnet.com on a required device.
- 2) Select *Parent* in the drop down.
- 3) Enter your child's Schoolnet username and password exactly as it appears on the registration confirmation email.
- 4) Enter the Test Passcode (exactly as it appears on the registration confirmation email) for the test your child wants to take.
- 5) Select *Go* and then select *Start your test*. The test will then launch in TestNav.

System Requirements:

Device	Operating System	Browser
Windows Laptop/PC	Windows 7, 8.1, 10	Internet Explorer 11, Firefox 69 and above, Chrome 77 and above, Edge 44 (for Windows 10)
Mac Laptop/MacBook	macOS 10.14 Mojave, macOS 10.15 Catalina	Safari 13.0.2, Firefox 69 and above, Chrome 77 and above
iPad	iOS 13.1.2	Safari 13.0
Chromebook	Chrome OS	Chrome 77



Note: If using Safari 13.1, it is recommended to first disable the "Prevent Cross Site Tracking" option under Privacy & Security in Safari settings.

If all these steps were followed on a device that meets the requirements, contact Pearson customer support at (800) 627-0225, and provide the student details and the type of device, operating system, and browser that is being used.

2. Can I get printed copies of the test?

You may request printed copies of the Beginning-of-Year Assessments assigned to your child by contacting Pearson customer support at (800) 627-0225. Provide the agent with the student information, grade level and subject the child is registered for.

Pearson will email printed copies of the tests, including the answer key for each of the tests. You can manually score the tests using the answer key provided or you can enter the final answers into the Schoolnet testing platform using your child's username and password. This will automatically show you the score along with more details about each of the questions.

3. How long will the test take?

The BOY assessments mirror the STAAR tests, so students should need only a few hours to complete each test. These are self-paced assessments that can be completed as students are available. Students will be able to pause and resume testing or log in and log out of testing until they submit the test. Once a student submits a test, the test will no longer be available to complete.

4. I selected Text-to-Speech when I registered my child because he/she requires an oral administration of tests. How do I see that on my child's test?

Text-to-Speech will appear as a tool on the right side of the screen once your child has entered the test. This can be selected when your child needs the contents of the test read aloud (where applicable). If you would like your child to see and try the tool before taking the actual test, you can have your child view the online tutorial posted on TEA's website at <https://tea.texas.gov/student-assessment/testing/student-assessment-overview/optional-end-of-year-assessments>. This will also show your child how to use the other tools within the test.

5. Text-to-Speech is not working on the reading passages for my child.

Because the reading test is measuring reading comprehension, the passages are not read to the student, only the questions and answers are read. For writing, Text-to-Speech can be used for some passages if they are not related to editing.

6. Will my child's results be shared with anyone else?

No, unless your district registered your child, only you and your child will be able to view these results using your child's username and password.

7. Does my child have to take all the tests that were assigned?

No, this is an optional assessment so none of the subjects are required. Your child should only take the tests that you want them to take.

8. My child messed up on the test. Can you reset it?

Unfortunately, once the test has been submitted, we cannot restart it.

9. What should I do with my child's test results?

After completing the test, you will be able to see your child's score, responses to individual questions, and suggested next steps to best support your child. Your child's test results can help you in your conversations with teachers about how prepared your child may be for his or her new grade level. This will be an important conversation so both you and your child's teachers can work out a plan for helping your child reach their full academic potential.