

**State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) End-of-Course (EOC)  
Standard-Setting Process Overview**

Standard-Setting Step	Description	Timeline
1. Conduct validity and linking studies	External validity evidence was collected to inform standard setting and support interpretations of the performance standards. Scores on each assessment were linked to performance on other assessments in the same content area.	Studies started in spring 2009 and will continue throughout the program.
2. Develop performance labels and policy definitions	Committee convened jointly by TEA and THECB to recommend performance categories, performance category labels, and general policy definitions for each performance category.	September 2010
3. Develop grade/course specific performance level descriptors (PLDs)	Committees consisting primarily of educators developed performance level descriptors (PLDs) as an aligned system, describing a reasonable progression of skills within each content area (English, mathematics, science, and social studies).	November 2011
4. Convene policy committee	Committee considered policy implications of performance standards and empirical study results and made recommendations to identify reasonable ranges (“neighborhoods”) for the cut scores.	February 1–2, 2012
5. Convene standard-setting committees	Committees consisting of K–12 educators and higher education faculty used the performance labels, policy definitions, PLDs, and neighborhoods set by the policy committee to recommend cut scores for each STAAR EOC assessment.	Mathematics and English: February 22–24, 2012  Science and Social Studies: February 29–March 2, 2012
6. Review performance standards for reasonableness	TEA and THECB reviewed the cut-score recommendations across content areas.	March 2012
7. Approve performance standards	The Commissioner of Education (and Commissioner of Higher Education for postsecondary readiness standards) approved performance standards.	April 2012
8. Implement performance standards	Performance standards will be reported to students after the spring 2012 administration with phase-in standards applied.	May 2012
9. Review performance standards	Performance standards will be reviewed at least once every three years.	Fall 2014