



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Alternate 2 Progress Measure Questions and Answers

Defining the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure

1. What is the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure?

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Alternate 2 Progress Measure provides information about the amount of improvement or growth that a student has made in a subject area. This measure is based on a comparison of a student's test score last year with his or her score this year. The STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure is based on a student's stage change from the prior year to the current year. A student's stage for each year is determined by the student's scale score achieved on the test. The student's stages of performance from the prior year and the current year are then compared in order to assign the student a progress indicator, which is a determination of whether the progress made is sufficient to designate the student as having *Met* or *Exceeded* the progress target.

2. How are progress measures different from performance levels?

Performance levels describe and classify students' performance in the current year. The STAAR Alternate 2 performance levels are:

- Level I: Developing Academic Performance
- Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance
- Level III: Accomplished Academic Performance

In contrast, progress measures provide information about the improvement or progress that students have achieved between the previous year and the current year within the same content area. Individual student progress is compared to progress targets so that progress can be classified as *Met* or *Exceeded*.

3. For what grades and content areas is progress measured for STAAR Alternate 2?

STAAR Alternate 2 progress measures are available for mathematics and reading in grades 4–8, English I, English II, and Algebra I. If a student has scores for STAAR Alternate 2 in two consecutive grades/courses in two consecutive years in any of the tests listed in Table 1, progress can be calculated for the student.

Table 1. Stage Change Subjects and Grades for STAAR Alternate 2

Current Year Test	Prior Year Test
Grade 4 Mathematics	Grade 3 Mathematics
Grade 5 Mathematics	Grade 4 Mathematics
Grade 6 Mathematics	Grade 5 Mathematics
Grade 7 Mathematics	Grade 6 Mathematics
Grade 8 Mathematics	Grade 7 Mathematics
Algebra I	Grade 8 Mathematics
Grade 4 Reading	Grade 3 Reading
Grade 5 Reading	Grade 4 Reading
Grade 6 Reading	Grade 5 Reading
Grade 7 Reading	Grade 6 Reading
Grade 8 Reading	Grade 7 Reading
English I	Grade 8 Reading
English II	English I

4. How are the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure classifications (Met and Exceeded) determined?

The STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure classifications are determined by a student's stage change from the prior year to the current year. A student's stage for each year is determined by the student's scale score achieved on the test. The student's stages of performance from the prior year and the current year are then compared in order to assign the student a progress indicator.

A student's score on STAAR Alternate 2 can range from 100–999 scale score points. This score range has been divided into six stages. The stages are labeled A through F, with A being the lowest stage and F being the highest stage. The stages also correspond to performance levels. Stages A through C correspond to the *Level I: Developing Academic Performance*, stages D and E correspond to the *Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance*, and stage F corresponds to *Level III: Accomplished Academic Performance*. Table 2 is used to determine the student's current-year stage based on the student's current-year scale score.

Table 2. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Stages

Stage	Performance Level	Scale Score Band														
		G3M	G4M	G5M	G6M	G7M	G8M	A1	G3R	G4R	G5R	G6R	G7R	G8R	E1	E2
A	I	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230
B		230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255
C		256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299
D	II	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329
E		330–374	330–386	330–378	330–372	330–374	330–364	330–360	330–380	330–383	330–386	330–370	330–370	330–378	330–366	330–365
F	III	>= 375	>= 387	>= 379	>= 373	>= 375	>= 365	>= 361	>= 381	>= 384	>= 387	>= 371	>= 371	>= 379	>= 367	>= 366

After the student's current-year stage is determined, Table 2 can be used to determine the student's previous-year stage based on the student's previous-year scale score.

Once the stages for the current scale score and previous scale score are obtained, they can be used to determine a student's stage change. Stage change is then used in conjunction with Table 3 to determine a student's progress indicator. Locate the student's previous year stage along the left side of the table, and then read across the top of the table to the student's current year stage. The letter at the intersection of these two stages describes the progress a student made from the previous year to the current year. The descriptive labels represent the progress designations: DN=Did Not Meet, M=Met, E=Exceeded.

Table 3. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Indicators

		Current-Year Stage					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
Previous-Year Stage	A	M	M	E	E	E	E
	B	DN	M	M	E	E	E
	C	DN	DN	M	M	E	E
	D	DN	DN	DN	M	M	E
	E	DN	DN	DN	DN	M	M
	F	DN	DN	DN	DN	DN	E*

*Students who maintained Level III performance (Stage F) from the previous year to the current year are classified as having *Exceeded* progress in the current year.

5. Does the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure change a student's passing status on STAAR?

No, passing status, which is determined by performance level, is independent from the progress measure.

Applying the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure

6. How can I calculate my student's STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure?

In order to calculate a student's progress measure, the following information is needed:

- Subject area
- Student's grade level
- Current scale score
- Student's previous score on STAAR Alternate 2 in the same subject area but previous grade

To determine a student's stage change, two years of data are needed for tests administered no more than a year apart.

Refer to [question 4](#) above and see the student examples below for guidance on how to calculate the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure.

7. Why do some students not receive a progress measure?

While the progress measure is available for most students, there are circumstances in which it is not calculated. Students who have received exceptions through the No Authentic Academic Response (NAAR) or Medical Exception (ME) policies in the previous grade or current grade will not receive a progress indicator, as those students do not have scores valid to produce stage change.

Reporting the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure

8. What will appear on the student's STAAR Alternate 2 Report Card?

The STAAR Alternate 2 Report Card includes the student's current scale score and performance level. The progress indicator does not appear on the STAAR Alternate 2 Report Card. The current scale score and previous scale score are used to determine stage change. Stage change is then used in conjunction with Table 3 to determine your student's progress indicator.

Interpreting the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure

9. How is the STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure useful to parents, teachers, and administrators?

Scale scores and performance levels convey information about how a student performed in the current year. Progress measures provide additional information by communicating how much the student has improved from the previous year to the current year. When used together, this information provides a more complete picture of the student's achievement.

For example, while a student may have achieved the *Level II* standard and passed the test, the student may not have met the *Met* progress target. This information could help parents, teachers, and administrators identify students for early interventions to prevent them from falling behind in the future.

In contrast, a student may not have achieved the *Level II* standard, but the progress measure may indicate that the student made significant gains from the previous year to the current year. The progress measure allows parents, teachers, and administrators to recognize such gains.

STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measures and Accountability

10. How are STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measures used for state accountability?

Student progress on STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measures will be evaluated in the School Progress and Closing the Gaps domains within the accountability system. Detailed information about the accountability system is available online in the [Accountability Manual](#).

STUDENT EXAMPLES

Student A Information

Subject area: mathematics

Student's current grade level: 4

Student's current score on STAAR Alternate 2: 280

Student's previous grade level: 3

Student's previous score on STAAR Alternate 2: 236

Determining Progress for Student A

Is student eligible for a progress measure (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage C
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	Stage B
How can I describe my student's progress (progress indicator) from last year to this year (use Table 3)?	<i>Met</i>

Table 2. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Stages

Stage	Performance Level	Scale Score Band														
		G3M	G4M	G5M	G6M	G7M	G8M	A1	G3R	G4R	G5R	G6R	G7R	G8R	E1	E2
A	I	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230
B		230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255
C		256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299
D	II	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329
E		330–374	330–386	330–378	330–372	330–374	330–364	330–360	330–380	330–383	330–386	330–370	330–370	330–378	330–366	330–365
F		≥ 375	≥ 387	≥ 379	≥ 373	≥ 375	≥ 365	≥ 361	≥ 381	≥ 384	≥ 387	≥ 371	≥ 371	≥ 379	≥ 367	≥ 366

Table 3. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Indicators

		Current-Year Stage					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
Prior-Year Stage	A	M	M	E	E	E	E
	B	DN	M	M	E	E	E
	C	DN	DN	M	M	E	E
	D	DN	DN	DN	M	M	E
	E	DN	DN	DN	DN	M	M
	F	DN	DN	DN	DN	DN	E

STUDENT EXAMPLES

Student B Information

Subject area: reading/English language arts

Student's current grade level/course: English I

Student's current score on STAAR Alternate 2: 329

Student's previous grade level: 8

Student's previous score on STAAR Alternate 2: 333

Determining Progress for Student B

Is student eligible for a progress measure (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage D
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	Stage E
How can I describe my student's progress (progress indicator) from last year to this year (use Table 3)?	<i>Did Not Meet</i>

Table 2. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Stages

Stage	Performance Level	Scale Score Band														
		G3M	G4M	G5M	G6M	G7M	G8M	A1	G3R	G4R	G5R	G6R	G7R	G8R	E1	E2
A	I	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230
B		230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255
C		256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299
D	II	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329
E		330–374	330–386	330–378	330–372	330–374	330–364	330–360	330–380	330–383	330–386	330–370	330–370	330–378	330–366	330–365
F		>= 375	>= 387	>= 379	>= 373	>= 375	>= 365	>= 361	>= 381	>= 384	>= 387	>= 371	>= 371	>= 379	>= 367	>= 366

Table 3. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Indicators

		Current-Year Stage					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
Prior-Year Stage	A	M	M	E	E	E	E
	B	DN	M	M	E	E	E
	C	DN	DN	M	M	E	E
	D	DN	DN	DN	M	M	E
	E	DN	DN	DN	DN	M	M
	F	DN	DN	DN	DN	DN	E

STUDENT EXAMPLES

Student C Information

Subject area: reading

Student's current grade level: 5

Student's current score on STAAR Alternate 2: 330

Student's previous grade level: 4

Student's previous score on STAAR Alternate 2: 257

Determining Progress for Student C

Is student eligible for a progress measure (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage E
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	Stage C
How can I describe my student's progress from last year to this year (use Table 3)?	<i>Exceeded</i>

Table 2. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Stages

Stage	Performance Level	Scale Score Band														
		G3M	G4M	G5M	G6M	G7M	G8M	A1	G3R	G4R	G5R	G6R	G7R	G8R	E1	E2
A	I	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230
B		230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255
C		256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299
D	II	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329
E		330–374	330–386	330–378	330–372	330–374	330–364	330–360	330–380	330–383	330–386	330–370	330–370	330–378	330–366	330–365
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Table 3. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Indicators

		Current-Year Stage					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
Prior-Year Stage	A	M	M	E	E	E	E
	B	DN	M	M	E	E	E
	C	DN	DN	M	M	E	E
	D	DN	DN	DN	M	M	E
	E	DN	DN	DN	DN	M	M
	F	DN	DN	DN	DN	DN	E

STUDENT EXAMPLES

Student D Information

Subject area: mathematics

Student's current grade level: Algebra I

Student's current score on STAAR Alternate 2: 347

Student's previous grade level: 8

Student's previous score on STAAR Alternate 2:
Medical Exception (ME)

Determining Progress for Student D

Is student eligible for a progress measure (use Table 1)?	Yes
What is my student's current stage (use Table 2)?	Stage E
What is my student's previous stage (use Table 2)?	No Information Available
How can I describe my student's progress from last year to this year (use Table 3)?	No Information Available

Table 2. STAAR Alternate 2 Progress Measure Stages

Stage	Performance Level	Scale Score Band															
		G3M	G4M	G5M	G6M	G7M	G8M	A1	G3R	G4R	G5R	G6R	G7R	G8R	E1	E2	
A	I	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	< 230	
B		230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	230–255	
C		256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	256–299	
D	II	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329	300–329		
E		330–374	330–386	330–378	330–372	330–374	330–364	330–360	330–380	330–383	330–386	330–370	330–370	330–378	330–366		
F	III	>= 375	>= 387	>= 379	>= 373	>= 375	>= 365	>= 361	>= 381	>= 384	>= 387	>= 371	>= 371	>= 379	>= 367		

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		Current-Year Stage					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
Prior-Year Stage	A	M	M	E	E	E	E
	B	DN	M	M	E	E	E
	C	DN	DN	M	M	E	E
	D	DN	DN	DN	M	M	E
	E	DN	DN	DN	DN	M	M
	F	DN	DN	DN	DN	DN	E