



2022-23 Optional Beginning-of-Year Assessments

Frequently Asked Questions

The purpose of this document is to provide Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools guidance on the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the optional Beginning-of-Year (BOY) assessments for the 2022–23 school year. BOY assessments can help schools gauge students' understanding of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), as they begin the school year.

While the optional BOY assessments will be administered in early fall 2022, they are designed to diagnose students' understanding of the TEKS for the current school year. Therefore, the grade level of each student's BOY assessment should be aligned to a student's grade level. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will not use data from the BOY assessments for any accountability purposes. This FAQ document will be updated as needed.

1. Are the BOY assessments a new testing requirement for fall 2022?

No. The BOY assessments are being provided as an optional resource for schools to measure students' understanding of the TEKS as they begin the school year.

2. What grades/subjects and courses are being provided for the BOY assessments?

The optional BOY assessments cover the same grades/subjects and courses that are provided for STAAR. They will include grades 3–8 mathematics and RLA, grades 5 and 8 science, grade 8 social studies, Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History. Spanish versions of BOY assessments will also be available for grades 3–5 mathematics and RLA, and grade 5 science.

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

The BOY assessments are meant to provide educators with baseline data of students' understanding of grade-level TEKS in order to inform instructional planning.

4. When is the registration window, and when will BOY assessments be available?

The registration window opens to local education agencies (LEAs) on Monday August 22, 2022. Testing administration window is August 30, 2022 – October 21, 2022.

5. In what format will the BOY assessments be available?

The beginning of year optional assessments are available online and on paper. Students will take the online tests by launching the secure browser in Cambium's Test Delivery System (TDS). Students may also access the online tests using conventional browsers, such as Chrome, Firefox, and Edge. The test administrator will need to provide students with their Session ID and test link to access the test through a conventional browser.

Printable PDF versions of the tests and scoring documents can be requested by reaching out to TexasTestingSupport@cambiumassessment.com. Paper versions should only be provided to students with a disability that prohibits the student from interacting with an online assessment.

6. Is the BOY assessment a former, released STAAR Test?

Yes. The optional BOY assessments for school year 2022-23 are the spring 2022 released STAAR assessments.

7. How many test questions are on the BOY assessments?

The optional BOY assessments are the spring 2022 released STAAR tests which range from 34-68 multiple choice questions. The writing prompts in English I and English II are optional.

8. How much time do students need to complete the BOY assessments?

The BOY assessments are the spring 2022 released STAAR tests, minus the field test questions, so students should need only a few hours to complete each test. However, since these are optional assessments, districts may set their own timing to fit their needs.

9. What accessibility tools will be available for the BOY assessments?

All accessibility tools such as the highlighter, notepad, and zoom, are available for online STAAR are also available for the BOY assessments.

10. What accommodations will be available for the BOY assessments?

Whether the students are testing online or on paper, districts should determine which accommodations their students routinely and effectively use during classroom instruction and classroom testing. For online testing, some of the accommodations or designated supports (e.g., text-to-speech or content and language supports) that students are used to seeing in the STAAR online testing environment will be available in TDS. Braille and online American sign language (ASL) versions will not be available.

It is not necessary to hold an admission, review, and dismissal (ARD), language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC), or other decision-making meeting to determine accommodations for the BOY assessments.

11. Will districts need to register or sign up to use the BOY assessments?

There is no separate registration for BOY. Once a district uploads their school year 2022-23 student information in Cambium's Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE), students in grades 3-8 and students that have been marked eligible for an end-of-course assessment can be assigned a test session. Data file uploads for EOC assessments are available in TIDE.

12. Can teachers administer the BOY assessments without the district?

Yes. Teachers who choose to administer these assessments when not required by their district are not subject to the twice-per-school year benchmark limitation.

13. How quickly can districts see students' test results for the BOY assessments?

For students who take the BOY assessments online, districts will be able to see the test results immediately after the test is submitted. Results will be available in the Centralized Reporting System (CRS) and will show how a student performed overall on the test, how he or she did on each test question, and the correct answer to each question. Note that student results for the BOY assessments will not be available in the Student Portal on the TexasAssessment.gov website.

For students who take BOY assessments on paper, results must be hand scored locally.

14. What types of online scores will be available for the BOY assessments?

Roster, campus, and district reports will include an overall raw score (the number of items a student answered correct), scale score aligned to STAAR performance levels, points earned out of points possible by reporting category, the question, student response, and the student expectation for each question.

Users also have the capability of downloading reporting information as an Excel, .csv, or .txt file.

15. How will districts receive reporting information for students who take the BOY assessments online?

A district may download the data files into its data processing systems or view reported information directly in the CRS. Custom layout files will be available in CRS beginning August 30, 2022.

16. How should districts use the student performance data from the BOY assessments?

Districts may use the student performance data from the optional BOY assessments as one of several data points to evaluate where their students are at the beginning of school year 2022-23. Because these assessments are the spring 2022 released STAAR tests, answers are publicly available, so student performance data is not intended to be used for accountability.

To learn more about the SY22-23 BOY assessments, please view the overview training video located in the [Texas Learning Management System](#).

For questions related to the BOY assessments, please contact TEA's [Student Assessment Help Desk](#).