

Date: November 19, 2021

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guidance is to provide Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools with information related to the December 2021 administration of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) end-of-course (EOC) assessments. Please note that this guidance is ONLY for the December 2021 STAAR EOC administration.

## 1. Which assessments are available during the December 2021 STAAR administration?

Only the five STAAR EOC assessments required for graduation—Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History—are included in December administrations. These STAAR EOC assessments are administered at the end of the first semester (December), at the end of the second semester (spring), and in the summer (June), giving students three testing opportunities each year. For more information on testing requirements and when students should take a STAAR EOC assessment, please see the [Texas Assessment Program FAQs](#).

## 2. How can a student who receives remote instruction be administered a STAAR EOC assessment during the December 2021 administration window?

To ensure equity for all students, a student must be present at a monitored testing session and must be supervised by a trained test administrator to participate in the Texas assessment program. The December 2021 administration is a two-week online testing window (December 7–17) to give districts more flexibility in scheduling assessments and more opportunity to test all eligible students. TEA is not able to extend the STAAR paper testing window because of the time required to ship, process, and score paper testing materials and maintain reporting dates.

## 3. What is a “designated testing site”?

Districts may set up alternative testing sites other than the home campus (e.g., performing arts centers, recreational centers, or any other location supervised by a trained test administrator where the district can ensure equitable access and maintain test security). Remember that all test administration guidelines MUST still be followed:

- There must be at least one trained test administrator for every 30 students.
- Sufficient time to complete the test must be ensured for every student (especially for students receiving extra time accommodations).
- Answer documents should be grouped under the correct *Campus Identification Sheet* to ensure test results are attributed to the home campus.
- Sufficient bandwidth must be ensured for all students who are testing online.

## 4. Who can be a test administrator for the Texas assessment program?

Any district personnel may serve as a test administrator if they hold valid education credentials (such as a Texas educator certificate or permit), or if they are supervised by a district professional who holds the appropriate credentials. All district and campus personnel who participate in state-mandated testing or handle or have access to secure test materials must be trained at least once in proper testing procedures and have signed an *Oath of Test Security and Confidentiality*.

**5. What do I do if my district cannot follow the current TEA one-day STAAR paper administration schedule and follow appropriate public health protocols?**

If a district cannot follow the current one-day paper administration for STAAR while following appropriate public health protocols, then the district will need to administer some of these assessments online during the second week of the testing window.

**6. What do I do if my district cannot follow the current TEA one-day administration schedule for STAAR English I or English II and comply with local health guidelines?**

A district may request to test students in two groups (across two consecutive days) for English I and English II by completing the [Test Date Change Notice](#). All eligible submissions will be considered approved upon receipt but may be subject to further review by TEA.

**7. Can my district administer the STAAR EOC assessments on Saturday?**

For districts that would like to administer STAAR assessments on Saturdays during the testing window, Texas Testing Support will NOT be available. Districts may schedule paper or online tests for Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. If testing on paper, districts should ensure they can meet the scoreable return date, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Districts should avoid scheduling STAAR English I and English II EOC assessments outside of the assigned test dates. Districts may NOT schedule online testing for Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, because the system is scheduled to be offline.

**8. To reduce the total number of students on campuses on scheduled testing days, does my district have the ability to require students who are not scheduled to take an assessment to learn remotely on testing days?**

Hybrid instruction waivers were only permitted for the 2020–2021 school year. However, districts may continue to use the [Modified Schedule State Assessment Testing Days Waiver](#). This waiver allows the district to modify the schedule of classes for students who are not being tested to report to and attend school after the state testing period has ended.

**9. Can a student who is receiving homebound services participate in the December 2021 STAAR administration?**

Yes, just as with any other state administration, districts must attempt to test students who are receiving homebound services and instruction. If the student is unable to receive sufficient or consistent homebound services due to medical issues (this means that the student is currently receiving homebound services; however, the homebound teacher is unable to provide services for the majority of the documented time due to the medical issues), the student's answer document should be marked "A" for absent. The district may mark the student record for a medical exclusion from accountability calculations at the end of the testing window.

**10. What do I do if a student who is receiving remote instruction does not participate in the December 2021 STAAR administration?**

For any eligible student receiving remote instruction who does not go to the campus or designated testing site to take a STAAR EOC assessment in December 2021, the district should treat them like any other student who does not test.

- For students taking a STAAR EOC assessment for the first time in December 2021, use “S” for Score.
- For students taking a STAAR EOC retest in December 2021, use “O” for Other.