This document contains the questions from the 2020–2021 STAAR Interim Assessments webinar series and their subsequent responses. Because some information may overlap between webinars, all webinars and their questions have been included in this document. Webinar titles in this document hyperlink to the recording of the webinar. Visit the STAAR Interim Assessments webpage to learn more.

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**Webinar 1: STAAR Interim Assessments Overview and Updates**

1. **What months should a school give STAAR Interim Assessments?**

   TEA recommends testing in **November for Opportunity 1 tests** and **February for Opportunity 2**, but teachers should consider local scope and sequence when scheduling STAAR Interim Assessments. STAAR performance predictions are more accurate when assessments are administered during the recommended months.

2. **What is the most efficient way to register students?**

   Perform a file upload. It is very similar to STAAR and occurs within the STAAR Assessment Management System. There are step by step instructions in **Section 3** of the Interim User’s Manual.

3. **A second attempt at an interim requires manual entry. Is there any way to have a file upload?**

   Currently, registering students for a reattempt requires a manual entry. To learn more, visit **Section 3.5.1** of the Interim User’s Manual.
4. **Is multiple attempt data included in any of the data reports?**

Student-level reports are available in the Online Reporting Suite (ORS) for each submitted attempt and may be downloaded. However only primary attempt data is reported at the district, campus, or group level. Additionally, the courtesy district data file only includes primary attempt data.

5. **Is there a way to print an interim assessment?**

Currently, STAAR Interim Assessments are not widely available to print in order to protect the security of the items and maintain the accuracy of the predictions of summative performance. Students with a disability that prohibits them from interacting with an online test may receive a paper interim assessment upon district request. See Section 6 of the Interim User’s Manual to learn more.

Although teachers may not be able to preview the items in an interim assessment, they can find blueprints on the STAAR Interim Assessments webpage. STAAR Interim Assessments are full-scope, meaning they cover the entire breadth of a year’s curriculum. See question 17 for more information on why STAAR Interim Assessments are full-scope.

6. **If teachers are trying to get into the Texas Assessment Management System (TAMS), but receive a message that says their username is not registered, what should one do?**

District and campus testing coordinators can manage user accounts in real time in the STAAR Assessment Management System, i.e., create accounts, assign roles, and reset passwords as necessary. If there is a technical issue, please contact ETS at 855-333-7770.

7. **For the new item-level report, what is the State % based on?**

The percentage is based on student performance on the item across the state from either field test data or prior administration data.

**Webinar 2: Interim Student Registration**

8. **Where can one look to see the approximate number of questions for each test?**

Blueprints can be found on the STAAR Interim Assessments webpage. For multi-stage tests (3-8 R/LA, 3-8 math, Algebra I, English I and English II), there is an equal number of items on Section 1 and Section 2.
9. **Should a school set up testing groups ahead of time before registering students for tests?**

   No. Testing groups can be created during the registration process. There are step by step instructions in Section 3 of the Interim User’s Manual.

10. **If a student tests at an alternative center within the district will both the home campus and alternative campus be able to see the results?**

    No. Results are always reported and tied to the student’s home campus identified in the Assessment Management System. Only users with authorized permissions to access the Online Reporting Suite (ORS) and assigned to the home campus where the results are being reported will have access to student results. Users from other campuses (e.g., alternative campus) may be additionally associated with the home campus in the Assessment Management System to provide them access if desired.

11. **Is speech-to-text available for STAAR Interim Assessments?**

    No. Speech-to-text is not available as STAAR Interim Assessments do not have constructed response items; however, all other personal needs preferences (PNPs) available on the summative STAAR tests, except for ASL videos, are available for STAAR Interim Assessments.

12. **Where can testing coordinators pull the registration upload file?**

    Reports identifying current registrations are available for download in the Reports section (Reports > Students) of the STAAR Assessment Management System. These reports are provided in the registration upload file format. There are step by step instructions in Section 3 of the Interim User’s Manual.

13. **Where do administrators find directions for uploading teachers so that they can view ORS data?**

    See Section 4.1 of the Interim User’s Manual. Teachers assigned the Teacher Role, will only be able to access STAAR Interim Assessment student data, and only the data of the students assigned to their roster.
Webinar 3: Classroom Teachers- Interpreting Student Interim Scores

Webinar Agenda with Time Stamps:

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<td>1:03</td>
<td>Create Sub-rosters</td>
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<td>1:05</td>
<td>Use reported STAAR Interim Assessments student data to understand probabilities, relative strengths and weaknesses of Reporting Categories, and other data included</td>
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<td>Identify and implement remediation strategies in the classroom</td>
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<td>7:20</td>
<td>Administer the STAAR Interim Assessments remotely, if necessary</td>
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<td>13:29</td>
<td>Understand the STAAR Interim Assessments and how student scores should be used to facilitate classroom instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>31:24</td>
<td>Navigate to the Online Reporting Suite (ORS) from the Texas Assessment Management System (TAMS)</td>
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14. How are STAAR Interim Assessments different than the Texas Formative Assessment Resource (TFAR)?

The purpose of STAAR Interim Assessments is to monitor student progress, predict student performance on the STAAR, and identify students for intervention. In order to accomplish this purpose, STAAR Interim Assessments are full-scope, which means they cover a broad span of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) within a single test, and are recommended to be given in November for Opportunity 1 tests and February for Opportunity 2 tests.

The purpose of the Texas Formative Assessment Resource (TFAR) is to support teachers in gaining real-time, formative feedback on student learning as instruction occurs throughout the year. TFAR is meant to supplement and support existing district instructional resources and formative assessment practices, and consists of a TEKS-aligned item bank, test-builder, online administration platform, and data reports. Teachers can create and deliver quizzes and analyze results to help inform instructional choices such as making immediate lesson plan adjustments or providing specific interventions for students at the level of individual standards.
15. How do I get access to my students’ data for STAAR Interim Assessments?

Teachers wanting to receive access to their student data should contact their testing coordinator as management of access is controlled at the local level. Once a teacher is registered, an email will be generated and sent to his/her email address. The URL to log into the Online Reporting Suite (ORS) is: https://tx-toms.ets.org/

Upon login, a teacher will choose Reports > Online Reporting. To learn more, visit Section 7.1 of the Interim User’s Manual.

16. How can I view sample reports and potential intervention strategies for STAAR Interim Assessments?

The Interim User’s Manual has several resources beneficial to teachers:

Section 8: Making Sense of Interim Assessments – This section identifies the types of reports available, images of the reports, and details potential strategies.

Section 9: Quick Guide for Educators – This section details the test design and how to use the data for the STAAR Interim Assessments.

17. Why do the STAAR Interim Assessments ask my students questions about standards that I have not yet taught?

In order to provide predictions on how a student will perform on STAAR, STAAR Interim Assessments need to be full-scope, meaning that they cover the full breadth of the curriculum and may include questions over standards that a teacher has not yet taught in class or a student has no yet mastered. Because Texas does not have a state scope and sequence, teachers should consider what they have and have not taught in class when reviewing a student’s interim data report and evaluating performance.

STAAR Interim Assessments are designed to be completed in November for Opportunity 1 tests and February for Opportunity 2 tests and scored with the assumption that the more instructional days a student has had, the more instruction that a student has received.

18. My students took a STAAR Interim Assessment, now what?

Teachers should view their students’ data to understand what type of intervention is necessary and if students have any learning misconceptions. There are several tools available to help teachers understand student data and next steps.
• **STAAR Interim Assessments Overview:** This video is intended for all curious audiences! Educators, parents, students, and administrators can learn the purpose and design of the STAAR Interim Assessments.

• **Empowering Teachers - Learning to view student data using the STAAR Interim Assessment Online Reporting Suite (ORS):** Want to see the reporting suite? This video is intended for teachers whose schools have granted teacher access to the ORS. It details navigation and functionality of student data reports with a real look into the reporting system.

• **Empowering Teachers-Learning to view student data using the STAAR Interim Assessment Online Reporting Suite (ORS) to explore multi-stage testing and probabilities:** Taking the ORS a step further, this video is intended for teachers whose schools have granted access to the ORS and details how multi-stage testing works and how to receive the most accurate results of STAAR Interim Assessments.

• **Section 8: Making Sense of Interim Assessments:** This section identifies the types of reports available, data report images, and details potential strategies.

• **STAAR Interim Assessments-Assessment Literacy Modules:** These modules dive into the purpose of interim assessment as well as the design, data reported, and the usefulness of the data provided by STAAR Interim Assessments. Teachers who complete the modules have the opportunity to earn credit upon completion! (Coming soon)

**Webinar 4: A Deep Dive into the Online Reporting Suite (ORS) and Group Rostering**

19. Are English I and English II STAAR Interim Assessments multiple choice only?

Yes. STAAR Interim Assessments do include revising and editing questions; however, there is not a writing component.

20. Are the STAAR Interim Assessment items the same for a reattempt?

It depends. For linear tests (social studies, science, biology, and U.S. History), the questions are the same and occur in the same order. For multi-stage tests (R/LA, math, Algebra I, English I and English II), Section 1 questions will be the same and occur in the same order, but based upon a student’s performance on Section 1, the student may be routed to a different set of items for Section 2 (e.g., receive a more difficult set of items).

21. How long does it take for a student to complete a STAAR Interim Assessment?

STAAR Interim Assessments are untimed and may be scheduled in a way that fits a school or teacher’s schedule. In 2018–2019, schools reported an average testing time of 1 hour 30 min for an interim assessment. It is important to note that students do not need to complete the interim assessment in one sitting.
22. If we test now, when the new item level reports launch, will it retroactively include data for tests my school has already completed?

Yes. ALL new capabilities/enhancements grandfather in the previous primary STAAR Interim Assessments, even from prior years.

23. What information is included in the weekly courtesy district data file and what is the schedule of delivery?

Information included in the courtesy data file is located in the Interim User’s Manual, Appendix B, and the schedule of delivery can be found in Appendix C.

24. How does a testing coordinator retrieve the courtesy district data file?

The district data file may only be retrieved by district testing coordinators or district testing assistants. Follow these steps to download the Interim Data File.

1. In the top navigation menu, select Reports, then Results.
2. Select an interim administration from the Test Administration dropdown list, a District or Campus from the Organization dropdown list, Interim (or All) in the Report Type dropdown, and (optionally) set a date range using the Date Range, From: and To: Calendar icons.
3. Click the SEARCH button.
4. Click the Report File icon under "Actions" to download and view the report.

25. Is there a way to see the comparison of multiple attempts on one page?

Yes. The longitudinal view allows users to view multiple attempts as well as historical data at the individual student-level. Read about this view in Section 8.1.1.4 of the Interim User’s Manual.

26. Is there a mass upload option to register teachers?

Yes. Teacher accounts in the Assessment Management System may be created and managed via file upload. See section 5.3 Upload User Files of the Assessment Management System User’s Guide for more information.