STAAR Alternate 2 Updates
Texas' definition of a student with a significant cognitive disability:

• exhibits significant intellectual and adaptive behavior deficits in their ability to plan, comprehend, and reason, and ALSO indicates adaptive behavior deficits that limit their ability to apply social and practical skills such as personal care, social problem-solving skills, dressing, eating, using money, and other functional skills across life domains;

• is NOT identified based on English learner designation or solely on the basis of previous low academic achievement or the need for accommodations; and

• requires extensive, direct, individualized instruction, as well as a need for substantial supports that are neither temporary nor specific to a particular content area.
STAAR Alternate 2 Eligibility Decisions

• Revised in 2018 to
  ▪ clarify the scope of students who are taking STAAR Alternate 2 and
  ▪ satisfy the requirements of ESSA, 2015

• TETN STAAR Alternate 2 2018-2019 Participation Requirement Training
STAAR Alternate 2 Key Dates 2019-2020

Submit registrations: 12/2-1/3
Late registrations: 3/9-4/21
Materials list available: 2/10
Additional order window: 3/9-4/10
Preview window: 3/16-3/27
Testing window: 3/30-4/21
Ship all nonscorable materials: 5/1

Additional dates can be found in 2019-2020 Calendar of Events
STAAR Alternate 2 Key Dates

Students who enroll on or after March 30, 2020

- Students who transfer/move to a **new district on or after** the first day of the STAAR Alternate 2 testing window do not have to be tested.

- Students who transfer **within the same district** after the first day of the STAAR Alternate 2 testing window still must be tested by the district where the student is enrolled.
Check for Understanding
STAAR Alternate 2 Webpage Updates

Fall postings
- Updated STAAR Alternate 2 Educator Guide and TAM
- Updated Instructional Terms lists
- Updated Essence Statements
- Updated Social Studies Vertical Alignment and Curriculum Framework documents

Late Fall postings
- Updated RLA Vertical Alignment and Curriculum Framework documents
STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Training

Training Topics

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Test Security
- Scheduling Test Administrations
- Preparation for Test Administration (Preview Window)
- Testing with Accommodations
- Monitoring Test Administrations
- Returning Materials to District Coordinator

Resources

- DCCR STAAR Alternate 2 section
- STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual non-secure
- STAAR Alternate 2 Educator Guide
Test Administrator role

Who should administer STAAR Alternate 2?

- Ideally, the student’s teacher for the subject being tested because of a high level of familiarity with the student
  - Accommodations can be prepared and delivered appropriately
  - The student’s typical response mode can be understood

- Paraprofessionals may serve as test administrators supervised by a certified professional on the same campus throughout the administration.
  - Trained in preparation of test materials and test administration procedures
  - Signed oath

- See additional options for test administrator in the District and Campus Coordinator Resource
Preview Window Actions

- Practice reading the script and following the presentation instructions for test administration
- Review the Scoring Instructions for test question and plan teacher assistance for items 2 and 3 in each cluster.
- Review the student booklet and image cards to plan and prepare accommodations for any student who may need an accommodation according to the guidelines outlines in “Allowable Accommodations” in the STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual
- NOT a preteach period
  - Any presentation of materials or introduction of concepts or topics to a student prior to the administration of the test is considered a serious irregularity ad should be reported as such.
Scheduling Test Administrator sessions

- The ARD committee meeting should make assessment decisions as early in the current school year as possible or at the end of the prior year to the applicable school year. The meeting should occur prior to the start of the STAAR Alternate 2 testing window.

- No verification window
  - Final day to submit scores online 4/21/20.

- Each district may develop a local schedule for STAAR Alternate 2 assessments during the designated test administration window specified in the Calendar of Events.

- District or campus coordinator should communicate the schedule that test administrators should follow.
Scheduling Individual Test Sessions

STAAR Alternate 2 is an untimed assessment that can be given over multiple sessions.

- Administer the assessment at a time that is most appropriate for a student;
  - Allowing breaks, as necessary;
  - Administering the test over several days with several sessions per day; or
  - Administering the test over several days, one session each day.

- Items are best tested with the entire four-item cluster intact, one cluster at a time. However, frequent breaks within the 4-item cluster may be required and necessary for some students.
Test Administration with Image Cards

Image Cards

- STAAR Alternate 2 must be administered with the student booklet
- Image cards are an optional tool used to
  - Support text with images
  - Present answer choices one at a time
- A test administrator may use image cards for multiple students;
  - Complete clean card
  - NO appearance of use whatsoever – no accommodations applied (e.g. highlighting, coloring, cropping, etc.)
Test Administration with Image Cards

Image Cards

- Test administrators should utilize image cards in the same way they previously accommodated the student booklet page.
- EXAMPLES of accommodations that image cards may replace:
  - Photocopying and then cutting apart answer choices in order to present answer choices one at a time
  - Photocopying and then cutting out an image to pair with text
  - Other accommodations that required photocopying and then making a “card” to assist with test administration
- Image cards have a number stamp on the back to correspond with test items.
- On rare occasions, test items do not have an accompanying image card due to nature of the stimulus.
Testing Environment

- Test administrators must prepare the environment for the administration of STAAR Alternate 2.
- STAAR Alternate 2 is administered to students in a one-on-one setting.
- Test sessions
  - must be conducted under the best possible conditions with minimal distractions
  - and in a setting that is arranged to maintain confidentiality of test material and responses of individual students.
- Districts with cameras in self-contained classrooms should use locally-developed policy which includes “penalties for prohibited conduct” in the event that a request is made to view video that was recorded during a test administration session.
Entering Responses Online

- Students taking the STAAR Alternate 2 administration communicate answers directly to the test administrator.

- The test administrator records the student’s response on the STAAR Alternate 2 Scoring Document based on scoring information provided for each item.

- The students’ responses are then entered into the Assessment Management System.

- The district coordinator, campus coordinator, or other authorized personnel who have completed training and signed oath will enter scoring information into an online system.
TEA’s request for a limited waiver to assess more than 1% of students using an alternate assessment in the 2018-2019 school year in reading/language arts, science and mathematics was approved by the United States Department of Education (USDE) in March, 2019.

Based on state assessment data for Spring 2019, TEA will again be requesting a waiver for the 2019-2020 school year.
### % of Districts Exceeding 1% Participation Rate

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESC Regions</th>
<th>2018</th>
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**TEA - Student Assessment Division**
## Statewide Student Participation Data

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spring 2017</th>
<th>Spring 2018</th>
<th>Spring 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Math Alternate</strong></td>
<td>37,980</td>
<td>40,646</td>
<td>41,836</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Students Math</strong></td>
<td>2,807,473</td>
<td>2,804,047</td>
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<td><strong>Reading/ELA Alternate</strong></td>
<td>42,398</td>
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<td>47,136</td>
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<td><strong>All Students Reading ELA</strong></td>
<td>3,522,895</td>
<td>3,487,018</td>
<td>3,584,899</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science Alternate</strong></td>
<td>15,305</td>
<td>16,780</td>
<td>16,984</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Students Science</strong></td>
<td>1,243,552</td>
<td>1,271,379</td>
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Subgroup Data for Districts over 1%

Data provided by TEA allows districts over 1% to compare

- Subjects
- Grade level
- Race/Ethnicity/Gender
- Economically Disadvantaged
- English Learners (Els)
Subgroup - Reading Participation Rates

STUDENTS ASSESSED WITH READING STAAR ALTERNATE 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY DISABILITY</th>
<th>Spring 2018</th>
<th>Spring 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>23,764</td>
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<tr>
<td>DB</td>
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State Disability Data
STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Spring 2019

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<tr>
<th>PRIMARY DISABILITY</th>
<th>Participation Data By Percentage</th>
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<tr>
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STAAR Alternate 2
Waiver Request (3rd Year)

How to submit:
- School districts/charters will receive an email notification indicating that based on 2018-2019 data the LEA assessed more than 1% of its assessed students with STAAR Alternate 2.
  - Email will include a PDF attachment of district/charter specific STAAR Alternate 2 participation data
  - Email will include a link to complete the waiver form.
- Email notification will be sent to the Superintendent of the school district or the Chief Administrative Official of the charter school AND person submitting the form.
- Districts/charters will receive an email acknowledgement that the district’s waiver information has been received.
ESSA reauthorization 2015 placed a state cap on participation in statewide alternate assessment

- federally mandated
- By 2020 every state should be under 1% cap

# of students assessed with SA2 in SUBJECT
# of ALL students assessed in SUBJECT

2019 PBMAS SPED Indicator #4: SPED STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Rate

- Part of TEA’s annual evaluation of school performance and program effectiveness.
- Report Only indicator
- SPED STAAR Alternate 2 overall participation rate denominator includes STAAR, STAAR Spanish, and STAAR Alternate 2 assessments.
- SPED STAAR Alternate 2 overall numerator is for STAAR Alternate 2 grades 3-8 and EOCs.
- Students quality for ME or NAAR designation are not included in the calculation of this indicator
Monitoring Plan

- Continued training on participation requirements
- Collaboration with the Special Education monitoring team
- New PBMAS indicator
  - Data gathering only
  - No staging initial year
  - Inform agency regarding support that should be provided to district
Questions?