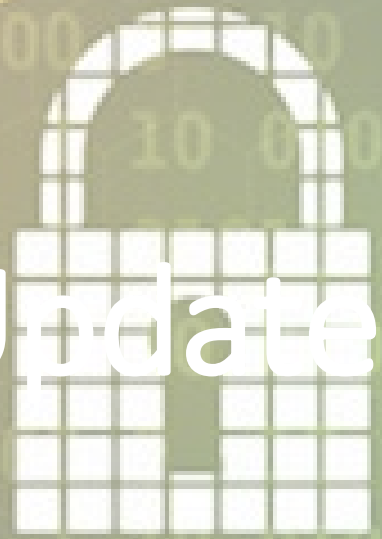
Test Security Updates



Revised Security Section in DCCR

The security section has been reorganized to include the following pages.

- Overview
- Testing irregularities
- Penalties for violating security and confidentiality of assessments
- Investigating and reporting testing irregularities
- Things to consider before, during, and after an administration
- Security forms

Testing Irregularities Section

Includes:

- Serious
- Procedural
- Incidents involving student cheating
- Incidents that are not necessarily testing irregularities
- How to avoid testing irregularities

Penalties for Test Violations

Penalties include:

- Invalidating student test results
- Referring to SBEC for potential sanctions
  - Restriction
  - Reprimand
  - Suspension
  - Revocation
- Class C misdemeanor
- Lowering accreditation status or accountability rating
- Charter sanction or revocation

Online Incident Report Form

- The form is being updated to reflect the updates in the DCCR.
- The form will ask if the irregularity is procedural or serious.
  - If procedural, you will need to select one of the five procedural categories.
  - If serious, you will need to select tampering, assistance, or other.
- For all incidents, you need to submit an online incident report form and include an investigative summary and plan of action.
- For serious violations, you also need to submit witness statements.
- You may also need to submit other requested documentation (e.g., seating charts, oaths, etc.).

Revised Security Oaths

- Based on feedback from the field, TEA has revised the security oaths.
- There are now three separate oaths with links to each on the security forms page.
  - Superintendent and Chief Administrative Officer
  - District Testing Coordinator
  - General (for CTC, TA, technology staff, proctors, raters, etc.)
- The Superintendent and DTC oaths are online forms with checkboxes. They can be printed and submitted online.
- The General oath is a fillable PDF that can be printed and saved electronically.

Check for Understanding

Policy Updates

Section Break Slide

Updates Based on New Legislation

House Bill 3—General Information

- TEA staff are working to provide information to the field regarding HB 3 and its implications.

- Information and resources are available at: http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Government_Relations_and_Legal/Government_Relations/House_Bill_3
  - Budgeting Resources
  - Topics of Interest
  - HB 3 in 30 Video Series
  - Guidance and Correspondence

- If you have HB 3 related questions, please send them to HB3info@tea.texas.gov.

House Bill 3—STAAR Study

- TEA is required to contract with a public institution of higher education to conduct a study on the alignment and readability of STAAR.

- TEA has signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Texas at Austin to conduct the study and prepare a report.

- The study includes STAAR grades 3–8 assessments administered in spring 2019 and those to be administered in spring 2020.

House Bill 1244—U.S. History Assessment

STAAR U.S. history assessment must include 10 questions randomly selected from the civics test administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as part of the naturalization process.

TEA must

- ensure that the questions included align with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for the high school U.S. history course; and
- annually issue a report that:
  - provides the included questions and answers
  - details student performance on the questions, both statewide and disaggregated by district and campus

House Bill 1244—U.S. History Assessment

- Due to the amount of time necessary to implement this legislation, TEA is planning for this change to the STAAR U.S. History assessment to occur during the 2020–2021 school year.

- There are **NO** changes to the STAAR U.S. History assessed curriculum or blueprint as a result of this legislation for the 2019–2020 school year.

STAAR U.S. History Blueprint

Social Studies Skills is not a separate reporting category. These skills will be incorporated into at least 30% of the test questions from reporting categories 1–4 and will be identified along with the content standards.

Reporting Categories	Number of Standards		Number of Questions	
Reporting Category 1: History	Readiness Standards	22	30	
	Supporting Standards	29		
	Total	51		
Reporting Category 2: Geography and Culture	Readiness Standards	7	12	
	Supporting Standards	5		
	Total	12		
Reporting Category 3: Government and Citizenship	Readiness Standards	5	10	
	Supporting Standards	10		
	Total	15		
Reporting Category 4: Economics, Science, Technology, and Society	Readiness Standards	9	16	
	Supporting Standards	10		
	Total	19		
Readiness Standards	Total Number of Standards	43	60%–65%	41–44
Supporting Standards	Total Number of Standards	54	35%–40%	24–27
Total Number of Questions on Test			68 Multiple Choice	

Senate Bill 213—Graduation Provisions

This bill extends the current expiration date for certain provisions from September 1, 2019, to September 1, 2023, effective immediately. This includes:

- using the TSI assessment as a substitute assessment,
- graduation based on the determination of an Individual Graduation Committee for students who have STAAR as a graduation requirement but have not met assessment graduation requirements, and
- alternate graduation requirements for students who entered ninth grade before the 2011–2012 school year but who have not met assessment graduation requirements.

Senate Bill 213—TAC §101.4002

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §101.4002, STAAR Substitute Assessments

- Being amended to update the date for students who have STAAR as a graduation requirement to use the TSI assessment as a substitute assessment for Algebra I and English II under paragraph (d)(2).
- Extended expiration date to September 1, 2023.
- Scheduled to be posted for public comment October 11–November 12, 2019.
- Proposed effective date is January 26, 2020.

Senate Bill 213—TAC §101.3022

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §101.3022, STAAR Graduation Requirements

- Amended to update the date for students who have STAAR as a graduation requirement to graduate based on the determination an Individual Graduation Committee.
- Extended expiration date to September 1, 2023.
- Posted for public comment July 26–August 26, 2019.
- No changes were made to the rule since published as proposed.
- Effective October 15, 2019.

Senate Bill 213—TAC §101.3024

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §101.3024, TAKS Graduation Requirements

- Amended to update the date for students who have TAKS (or TAAS or TEAMS) as a graduation requirement to graduate based alternate graduation requirements.
- Extended expiration date to September 1, 2023.
- Posted for public comment July 26–August 26, 2019.
- No changes were made to the rule since published as proposed.
- Effective October 15, 2019.

House Bill 3906—Educator Advisory Committee

- TEA is required to establish a new assessment advisory committee.
- The purpose of the new committee is to advise TEA on the development of academically appropriate state assessment instruments.
- The committee is expected to advise TEA on the design and implementation of potential changes to the state's assessment program.

House Bill 3906—Educator Advisory Committee

- The new committee:
  - Must include experts in curriculum and instruction.
  - Will include content experts and individuals with experience supporting special populations.
  - May include K–12 educators, K–12 administrators, and higher education representatives.
- Nominations for the new committee were requested and submitted in August 2019.
- The commissioner's appointments to this new committee are pending.

House Bill 3906—First Instructional Day of the Week

- The SBOE shall ensure that STAAR assessments are not administered on the first instructional day of the week (i.e., Monday).
- This applies to STAAR grades 3–8 and EOC assessments.
- This does not apply to STAAR Alternate 2, TELPAS, or TELPAS Alternate.

House Bill 3906—First Instructional Day of the Week

- The 2019–2020 testing calendar was updated to reflect this new law.
- All STAAR assessments were adjusted to avoid testing on Monday.
- If a district is no longer in session during the June STAAR administration, the district may adjust the testing schedule to test on Monday.

TAC 101.5001—Statewide Testing Calendar

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §101.5001, Statewide Testing Calendar

- Being amended to provide clarification indicating that for the purpose of scheduling STAAR, the first instructional day of a week is Monday.
- Posted for public comment August 30–September 30, 2019.
- Proposed effective date is December 2, 2019.

House Bill 3906—Multi-Part Assessments

- STAAR assessments may be administered in multiple parts over more than one day.
- A STAAR assessment may not have more than three parts.
- A part of a STAAR assessment must be designed so that:
  - if administered to students in grades 3 and 4, 85% of students will be able to complete that part within 60 minutes; and
  - if administered to students in grades 5–8, 85% of students will be able to complete that part within 75 minutes.

House Bill 3906—Multi-Part Assessments

- The goal of multi-part assessments is to increase scheduling flexibility for districts.
- During the 2019–2020 school year, TEA will work with stakeholders to design options to best support districts and campuses while ensuring continued test security and validity.
- The multi-part assessment option will be available to districts during the 2020–2021 school year.

House Bill 3906—Multi-Part Assessments

- The SBOE by rule may designate sections of a STAAR mathematics assessment that:
  - may be completed with the aid of technology and
  - must be completed without the aid of technology.
- During the 2019–2020 school year, TEA will work with math educators and other stakeholders to design options to best support districts and campuses while ensuring strong alignment to the math TEKS.
- The rulemaking process for the SBOE typically takes 7 or more months; therefore, the implementation of calculator sections will be a few years away.

House Bill 3906—Multiple-Choice Questions

- Beginning with the 2022–2023 school year, STAAR assessments may not include more than 75% of the questions in a multiple-choice format.
- TEA began soliciting input from educators during summer 2019 to help identify non-multiple-choice formats that would best assess the TEKS.
- During the next few years, TEA will work with educators and other stakeholders to develop non-multiple-choice test questions for STAAR.

House Bill 3906—Stand-Alone Writing Tests

- Eliminates stand-alone writing tests for grades 4 and 7 beginning with the 2021–2022 school year.
- Writing skills will be assessed with reading skills in the future.
- There are **NO** changes to the STAAR grades 4 and 7 writing assessments for the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years.

House Bill 3906—Electronic Administrations

- TEA, in consultation with the SBOE, shall develop a transition plan to administer assessments electronically beginning not later than the 2022–2023 school year.

- Not later than December 1, 2020, TEA shall submit to the legislature a report on the transition plan.

House Bill 3906—Interim Assessments

- STAAR Interim Assessments have been incorporated into the Texas Education Code, TEC §39.023(o).

- Interim assessments are:
  - are optional,
  - must be administered electronically,
  - must be predictive, and
  - may not be used for accountability purposes

- More information is available on the State-Developed STAAR Interim Assessments webpage.

House Bill 3906—Integrated Formative Assessments

- TEA must establish a pilot program in which participating school districts administer to students integrated formative assessment instruments.
- During the next few years, TEA will work with educators and other stakeholders to develop an integrated formative assessment pilot program.
- Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, TEA shall submit to the legislature a report on the pilot program.

Updates Based on Federal Requirements

STAAR Substitute Assessments and Accountability

- Under ESEA, a state is required to administer the same academic assessments to measure the achievement of all public-school students and include these assessment results in the accountability system.
- Therefore, TEA is no longer able to use substitute assessments for purposes of accountability as indicated in a communication to districts dated June 20, 2019.
- Beginning with the December 2019 administration, substitute assessments will not be included in state or federal accountability calculations.
- If you have accountability questions, please contact the Performance Reporting Division at (512) 463-9704 or performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov.

New Policy for STAAR Substitute Assessments

- To meet federal testing and accountability requirements, students will need to take STAAR EOC assessments at least once.

- For accountability purposes, taking a STAAR EOC assessment means receiving a score (i.e., score code “S”).

- If after taking the STAAR EOC assessment at least once and not meeting the passing requirement for graduation, a student may retake the EOC assessment or, if eligible, use a substitute assessment to satisfy the graduation requirement.

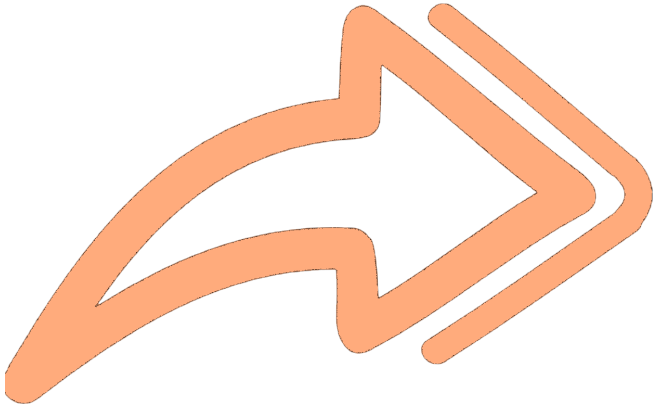
TAC 101.4002—STAAR Substitute Assessments

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §101.4002, STAAR Substitute Assessments

- Being amended to require a student to take an EOC assessment at least once for the purpose of federal accountability.
- No recommended changes to the substitute assessments allowed or the required scores in the chart.
- Scheduled to be posted for public comment October 11–November 12, 2019.
- Proposed effective date is January 26, 2020.

New Policy for STAAR Substitute Assessments

- The recommended policy for the 2019–2020 school year is that a student takes an STAAR EOC assessment at least once prior to using a substitute assessment to fulfill testing graduation requirements.



- However, this new policy is not officially in effect until amendments to TAC §101.4002 are adopted.

Testing Requirements for Accelerated Students

- As indicated in a communication to districts dated August 22, 2019, there will be **NO** policy changes to the testing requirements for accelerated students for the 2019–2020 school year.

- Districts should continue to follow existing policies and guidance concerning testing accelerated students.
  - Students in grades 3–8 take their enrolled grade-level assessment unless they are receiving instruction above-grade-level and taking an assessment that corresponds to that instruction.
  - Students take EOC assessments as they are completing a high school course.
  - No double-testing is required.

Testing Requirements for Accelerated Students

- TEA is working to implement new funding for SAT/ACT established under HB 3.

- This new funding will facilitate the implementation of federal testing requirements for students who have taken high school assessments prior to high school (i.e., accelerated students).

- TEA is also working with USDE to ensure the state's testing policies meet all the requirements of ESEA.

Check for Understanding

Questions?