

## The Benefits



### Matches Realities of Today's Environment

Today's learners are digital natives and use technology in their daily lives. Online testing addresses the realities of today's environment. In addition, changing workplace expectations mean that students need to be familiar with learning new online systems and performing tasks on computers.



### Potential for Faster Results

Online testing potentially allows for teachers and students to receive test scores earlier, allowing for more timely teacher and student reflection.



### Flexible Scheduling

Often, online testing occurs within an extended testing window, allowing districts to flexibly schedule testing with minimal impact to student instruction. Because paper check-in of materials is reduced, students can maximize test time within a given session.



### Accommodation Support for Students

Online testing supports students efficiently. Designated supports, which include text-to-speech and content and language supports, cannot be replicated with paper tests in a standardized way. These built-in components provide individualized supports based on student needs while requiring less test administrator involvement. A student with a disability that prevents him or her from interacting with an online assessment will continue to be provided with a paper-based test.



### Increased Test Security

Online tests require student-specific login credentials and prevent students from changing answers on tests administered on previous days. It reduces the need to secure students' personally identifiable information on paper documents prior to and following a test administration and reduces the risk of some procedural irregularities.



### Improved Administration

Online testing reduces the logistical planning required for preparation, distribution, administration, and collection of paper materials. It reduces the need to secure paper testing materials before and after an administration and, if a student changes schools during testing, allows for a student to access the appropriate test with ease. Online testing increases accuracy in data and data collection, including eliminating the risk of lost paper materials.



### Promotes Future Innovations in Assessments

Online testing allows for the continued exploration of new question types and assessment designs that support students and their needs. Read about [TEA's other assessment-related initiatives](#).



## The FAQs



**How can I help my students and teachers become more familiar with the online testing platform before testing electronically?**

It is recommended that campuses help students gain exposure to technological devices and familiarity with the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness ([STAAR® Online Testing Platform](#)) before test day. Students can prepare for online testing by taking [STAAR Interim Assessments](#), in which students can interact with the full range of the system's tools, engage with assigned accommodations, and answer field-tested STAAR questions aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Because the interim assessments are online, districts receive reporting within minutes of a student's test submission. In addition to interim testing, students, teachers, and parents can access tutorials and previously released STAAR tests known as practice tests in the online platform to become familiar with test navigation and tools.



**Does my school need a computer for every student to conduct online testing?**

It is not necessary to have a 1-to-1 device to student ratio for online testing since campuses may use a flexible schedule within the testing window to allow many students to cycle through a limited number of devices. Tests can be administered on any device that meets the [Unified Minimum Systems Requirements](#) and has the most updated version of the secure browser installed.



**Other than STAAR, what assessment programs in Texas offer online testing?**

In 2004, Texas introduced [Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System \(TELPAS\)](#) to assess the progress that English learners make in learning the English language. Currently ~100% of TELPAS tests are administered online with 1.5 million submissions annually.



**What does the Texas Legislature say about online testing?**

House Bill 3906, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019, requires TEA to develop a transition plan to administer assessments online beginning no later than the 2022-2023 school year. Please see the [Transition to STAAR Online Assessments Implementation Checklist](#) to support your school's transition to online assessments.