

Date: August 8, 2025

Subject: Selection for February 2026 STAAR Stand-Alone Field Test

To the Superintendent, Education Service Center Director, and District and Regional Testing Coordinator Addressed:

The purpose of this communication is to notify Texas school systems (public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools) of their campus selections for participation in the required State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Stand-Alone Field Test to be administered in February 2026.

February 2026 Administration

As previously announced, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will conduct a stand-alone field test for STAAR reading language arts (RLA) assessments to ensure that sufficient extended constructed-response questions are developed for future state assessments. Extended constructed-response questions are field-tested separately, instead of embedded in the operational assessments, to lessen the burden on students. The stand-alone field test will be administered online only and includes the following grades/subjects and courses:

- RLA grades 3–8
- English I and English II
- Spanish RLA grades 3–5

Participating school systems may administer the stand-alone field test on any day during the testing window, **February 2–6, 2026**. Campuses should schedule 2–3 hours for the administration of the RLA field tests. Field-test forms will include one extended constructed-response item at most. The remainder of each form may vary in the type of test questions presented (e.g., multipart, multiple choice, multiselect, hot text, short constructed response).

TEA will provide more specific details about the field test in the test administration instructions available by December 2025. No paper test booklets or other print materials will be sent to school systems, nor will school systems receive data or students' scores from this field-test administration.

Selection and Requirements for School Systems

As required by Texas Education Code [Section 39.035](#), administering the February 2026 stand-alone field test is mandatory for campuses selected. Lists of campus assignments for each school system selected to participate in this field test are posted for the district testing coordinator in the Secure File Center. District testing coordinators should review the campuses, grades, and courses assigned. If any changes or updates are necessary, contact Texas Testing Support as soon as possible.

Selection for English RLA Stand-Alone Field Test

For the English version of the RLA field tests, the campus sampling selection has been limited to a maximum of two grades or courses per campus to minimize the burden to students and campuses. The sampling plan for the English version of the field test excludes the following types of campuses:

- campuses selected to administer the National Assessment of Educational Progress during the 2025–2026 school year
- campuses with an F rating for the 2023–2024 accountability year
- campuses identified as alternate campuses, such as residential treatment facilities, disciplinary alternative education programs, or juvenile justice alternative education programs, instead of identified as regular instruction in AskTED

Census Spanish RLA Stand-Alone Field Test

Due to the limited number of students who take Spanish assessments, the Spanish RLA field tests will be census field tests. That means **ALL** school systems with students who will take the STAAR Spanish RLA assessments in spring 2026 are required to administer the Spanish RLA field test in grades 3, 4, and 5.

Student Eligibility Requirements

All eligible students at selected campuses who are scheduled to take the corresponding STAAR assessments in spring 2026 are required to participate in the stand-alone field test. Emergent bilingual students and students with disabilities, except for students who require accommodations that are not available in the online field test, should participate. (Braille, refreshable braille, and American Sign Language [ASL] videos are not available for the field test.) Students' participation or accommodations use in the field test are not required to be documented in students' paperwork.

- For grades 3–8, eligibility includes those students who are enrolled in the grade assigned to be field-tested.
- For end-of-course (EOC) assessments, eligibility includes those students who are enrolled in and completing the assigned course during the 2025–2026 school year, regardless of their enrolled grade.

TEA appreciates your continued support in these critical activities. If you have general questions about the stand-alone field test, contact TEA using the [Student Assessment Help Desk](#). If you have questions about your selection in the sample, contact Texas Testing Support at (833) 601-8821, TexasTestingSupport@cambiumassessment.com, or [TexasAssessment.gov via live chat](#).

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