



STAAR Alternate 2 Middle School Science Blueprint

Administered in Grade 8

Effective beginning with
the 2025-2026 school year

Strand	Number of Questions *	Number of Points **
Matter and Energy	4 or 8	8 or 16
Force, Motion, and Energy	4 or 8	8 or 16
Earth and Space	4 or 8	8 or 16
Organisms and Environments	4 or 8	8 or 16
Total	20	40

Sub-scores will not be reported for the Strands.

**There are 20 questions per test. One Strand will consist of 8 questions and the other three Strands will consist of 4 questions. **Each question is worth 2 points, for a total of 40 points per test.*

Curriculum: The [STAAR Alternate 2 Curriculum Frameworks](#) outlines the student expectations and prerequisite skills that are eligible to be assessed on the middle school grade-band science state summative assessment administered in grade 8. [TEKS Curriculum Framework for STAAR Alternate 2 Middle School Science Assessment Administered in Grade 8 \(texas.gov\)](#)

Question types: STAAR Alternate 2 is a paper assessment administered individually to eligible students. Each multiple-choice test question measures a targeted prerequisite skill. A cluster of four test questions tests a common skill or concept at varying levels of difficulty. Released and sample test questions are available at [STAAR Alternate 2 Released Test Questions | Texas Education Agency](#).

Development Process: STAAR Alternate 2 questions go through a rigorous development and review process to ensure they accurately measure student knowledge. Every question on STAAR Alternate 2 is created for Texas students with the review and approval of Texas educators. Texas educators can apply to participate on the assessment review committees at <https://bit.ly/406DvwE> located on the [TexasAssessment.gov](https://www.texasassessment.gov) website.

Step 1: Questions are written to align with the grade-level TEKS through prerequisite skills. The vertical alignment and curriculum framework documents provide complete listings of all TEKS and student expectations throughout the grades to provide access points to the general education curriculum.



Step 2: Groups of Texas educators review and approve questions for the elementary science grade-band to ensure questions align with TEKS prerequisite skills, are appropriate for the student population, and are unbiased.



Step 3: Questions are tested out by Texas students but do not count towards their scores to confirm that the questions are unbiased and accurate. These are called “field-test questions.”



Step 4: Questions that pass all previous steps can be selected for an operational STAAR Alternate 2 test form to provide educators and families with information to support teaching and learning.

[STAAR Alternate 2 Resources](#)

[STAAR Science Resources](#)