



STAAR Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Blueprint Effective as of School Year 2022–23

Reporting Category	Number of Standards	Number of Questions	Number of Points
1: Reading	Readiness: 13	26-28	28-30
	Supporting: 17		
2: Writing	Readiness: 9	17-19	26-28
	Supporting: 6		
Item Types by Point	1-point questions (multiple-choice and non-multiple choice)	42	42
	2-point questions (non-multiple choice)	2	4
	Extended Constructed Response	1	10
Total		45	56

All TEKS, whether identified as readiness or supporting, are required to be taught in their entirety for a grade level or course.

Readiness standards are essential for success in the current grade and important for preparedness for the next grade or course. They address broad and deep ideas and require in-depth instruction. These standards make up approximately 55-75% of the total points on the base test.

Supporting standards play a role in preparing students for the next grade or course but not one that is central. They may address more narrowly defined ideas or concepts or may be emphasized in grades below or above the current grade or course. Supporting standards make up approximately 25-45% of the total points on the base test.

Every passage and question on STAAR is created for Texas students with the review and approval of Texas educators.

STAAR passages and questions go through a [rigorous development and review process](#) to ensure they accurately measure student knowledge.

Step 1: Passages and questions are written to align with the TEKS, which describe what students should know and be able to do in each grade and subject.



Step 2: Groups of Texas educators review and approve passages and questions for the grade and subject they teach to ensure passages and questions are grade-level appropriate, align with the TEKS, and are unbiased and accessible to all students.



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: Passages and questions that pass all previous steps can be selected for an official STAAR test to provide educators and families with information to support teaching and learning.

[STAAR Reading Resources, Grades 3–8](#)

[STAAR Resources for all Assessments](#)

[STAAR Redesign Resources](#)

STAAR Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Test Design

STAAR Test	Passages	Number of Items	Reading Load
Base Test <i>These items contribute to the student's score.</i>	The reading section of the base test includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two single reading passages and • A paired reading passage (two passages read together) 	The reading section of the base test includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 to 28 multiple-choice and non-multiple-choice items 	Approximately 3,800 words maximum [†]
	The writing section of the base test includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two revising passages, • Two editing passages, and • One extended constructed response (composition) 	The writing section of the base test includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 to 19 multiple-choice and non-multiple-choice items, including the extended constructed response, which is a written response to a single or paired reading passage 	
Field Test <i>These items do not contribute to the student's score.</i>	The field-test section includes ONLY ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single reading passage • A paired reading passage • A single revising passage • Two short editing passages 	The field-test section includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 multiple-choice and non-multiple-choice items 	Approximately 950 words maximum [†]

[†]Although the length of individual passages may vary, the maximum reading load of the test is constant.

Eligible Genres	Passage Considerations
Passages may be from any of the following genres: Literary Fiction Drama Poetry Literary Nonfiction Non-literary Informational [§] Argumentative [§] Correspondence [§] Persuasive [§]	Passages are developed, and then reviewed and approved by Texas educators taking the following into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passages represent polished, high-quality writing and are considered exemplary samples of the eligible genres. • Passages include reliable and accurate information. • Passages are unbiased against or toward any group or culture. • Passages are as engaging as possible for students. • Passages are appropriate for the intended grade level, including readability indicators. • Passages contain enough content to assess multiple student expectations.

[§]100% of the non-literary passages for these genres will cover topics from subject area TEKS up to and including grade 8. The majority of topics for these cross-curricular passages will come from social studies and science. The rest will come from fine arts, health, physical education, technology applications, and mathematics (personal financial literacy only).