



TE★AS ASSESSMENT

2025 Texas Assessment Conference

STAAR Assessed Content

TEA Assessment Development Division

November 4, 2025



Good morning! Thank you for joining us.

Assessment Development Content Teams



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How can we help you?

Assessment Help Desk



When you contact the Help Desk, please include the following information:

- Topic
- Questions
- Relevant information
- Contact information
(Please include availability if you request a phone call.)



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TODAY'S AGENDA –

Content Updates

HB 8 Updates





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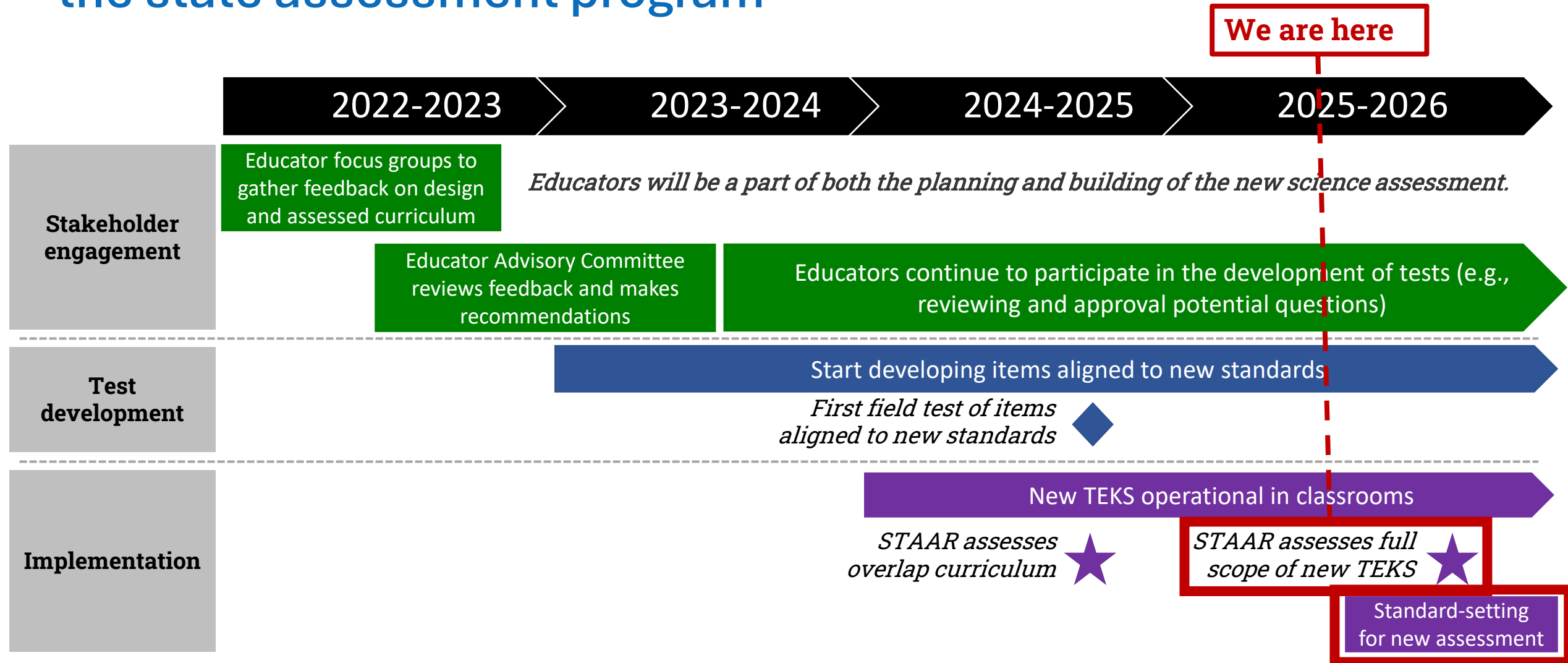
Content Updates

Science TEKS Implementation

Additional Content Updates



RECALL: Timeline for implementing the new science TEKS in the state assessment program



Science TEKS Updates – FULL IMPLEMENTATION

1 What is available on the TEA website?

2 What do the “shortened blueprints” mean?

3 What is involved with “standard-setting”?

The website has been updated for the current Assessed Curriculum documents and Blueprints.

The December administration for the Biology EOC will be the last administration for the “transition year.” These documents will be removed in January 2026.

Expand All	
Assessed Curriculum	
December 2025 Only	Biology
Beginning Spring 2026	- Elementary (3–5) administered in grade 5 (Updated 08/01/2025) - Elementary (3–5) administered in grade 5 Spanish (Updated 8/01/2025) - Middle School (6–8) administered in grade 8 (Updated 8/01/2025) - Biology (Updated 8/01/2025)
Blueprints	
December 2025 Only	Biology
Beginning Spring 2026	- Elementary (3–5) administered in grade 5 (Updated 08/01/2025) - Elementary (3–5) administered in grade 5 Spanish (Updated 08/01/2025) - Middle School (6–8) administered in grade 8 (Updated 08/01/2025) - Biology (Updated 08/01/2025)

The documents beginning with the Spring 2026 administration were finalized on August 1st. No additional edits were made.

The DRAFT watermark was removed from all the documents going into effect with the Spring 2026 administration.

1



Elementary Science Assessment Administered in Grade 5

Eligible Texas Essential
Knowledge and Skills

Elementary Science STAAR Blueprint Administered in Grade 5			Effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year		
Strand	Number of Questions	Number of Points	Question Types by Point Value	Number of Questions	Number of Points
Matter and Energy	3-5	4-7	1-point questions (multiple choice and non-multiple choice)	18-22	18-22
Force, Motion, and Energy	4-6	5-8			
Earth and Space	10-12	11-15	2-point questions (non-multiple choice)	4-6	8-12
Organisms and Environments	4-6	5-8			
Total	24-26	30	Total	24-26	30

Sub-scores will not be reported for the Strands.

Curriculum: All student expectations are required to be taught in their entirety for a grade level or course. The [Assessed Curriculum document](#) outlines the student expectations that are eligible to be assessed on the elementary grade-band science state summative assessment administered in grade 5.

Question types: Drag and drop, hot spot, inline choice, match table grid, multipart, multiple choice, multiselect, short constructed response (SCR), and cluster question sets. Cluster question sets are composed of a stimulus (scenario with a graphic and/or data display) and 3-5 questions. Each question in the cluster counts as a separate question in the blueprint and is scored independently from other questions in the cluster. [Practice Test site](#)

Development Process: STAAR questions go through a rigorous development and review process to ensure they accurately measure student knowledge. Every question on STAAR is created for Texas students with the review and approval of Texas educators. Texas educators can [apply to participate](#) on the [TexasAssessment.gov](#) website.

Step 1: Questions are written to align with the TEKS, which describe what students should know and be able to do in the elementary science grade band.

Step 2: Groups of Texas educators review and approve questions for the elementary science grade band to ensure questions are grade-level appropriate, align with the TEKS, 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: Questions that pass all previous steps can be selected for an operational STAAR test form to provide educators and families with information to support teaching and learning.

[STAAR Science Resources](#)

[STAAR Resources for all Assessments](#)

Texas Education Agency Assessment Development Division



Middle School Science Assessment Administered in Grade 8

Eligible Texas Essential
Knowledge and Skills

Middle School Science STAAR Blueprint Administered in Grade 8			Effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year		
Strand	Number of Questions	Number of Points	Question Types by Point Value	Number of Questions	Number of Points
Matter and Energy	5-7	6-9	1-point questions (multiple choice and non-multiple choice)	21-25	21-25
Force, Motion, and Energy	6-8	7-10			
Earth and Space	7-9	8-12	2-point questions (non-multiple choice)	5-7	10-14
Organisms and Environments	7-9	8-12			
Total	28-30	35	Total	28-30	35

Sub-scores will not be reported for the Strands.

Curriculum: All student expectations are required to be taught in their entirety for a grade level or course. The [Assessed Curriculum document](#) outlines the student expectations that are eligible to be assessed on the middle school grade-band science state summative assessment administered in grade 8.

Question types: Drag and drop, hot spot, inline choice, match table grid, multipart, multiple choice, multiselect, short constructed response (SCR), and cluster question sets. Cluster question sets are composed of a stimulus (scenario with a graphic and/or data display) and 3-5 questions. Each question in the cluster counts as a separate question in the blueprint and is scored independently from other questions in the cluster. [Practice Test site](#)

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Step 1: Questions are written to align with the TEKS, which describe what students should know and be able to do in the middle school science grade band.

Step 2: Groups of Texas educators review and approve questions for the middle school science grade band to ensure questions are grade-level appropriate, align with the TEKS, 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.

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[STAAR Science Resources](#)

[STAAR Resources for all Assessments](#)

Texas Education Agency Assessment Development Division

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE STAAR REFERENCE MATERIALS	
FORMULAS	
Average speed = $\frac{\text{total distance}}{\text{total time}}$	$v = \frac{d}{t}$
Net force = $(\text{mass})(\text{acceleration})$	$F = ma$
	$a = \frac{F}{m}$



Biology Assessment Eligible Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

Biology STAAR Blueprint			Effective beginning with the Spring 2026 administration		
Strand	Number of Questions	Number of Points	Question Types by Point Value	Number of Questions	Number of Points
Biological Structures, Functions, and Processes	12-14	13-16	1-point questions (multiple choice and non-multiple choice)	26-30	26-30
Mechanisms of Genetics	7-9	8-11			
Biological Evolution	7-9	8-11	2-point questions (non-multiple choice)	5-7	10-14
Interdependence within Environmental Systems	5-7	6-9			
Total	39-45	40	Total	39-45	40

Sub-scores will not be reported for the Strands.

Curriculum: All student expectations are required to be taught in their entirety for a grade level or course. The [Assessed Curriculum document](#) outlines the student expectations that are eligible to be assessed on the biology state summative assessment.

Question types: Drag and drop, hot spot, inline choice, match table grid, multipart, multiple choice, multiselect, short constructed response (SCR), test entry, and cluster question sets. Cluster question sets are composed of a stimulus (scenario with a graphic and/or data display) and 3-5 questions. Each question in the cluster counts as a separate question in the blueprint and is scored independently from other questions in the cluster. [Practice Test site](#)

Development Process: STAAR questions go through a rigorous development and review process to ensure they accurately measure student knowledge. Every question on STAAR is created for Texas students with the review and approval of Texas educators. Texas educators can [apply to participate](#) on the [TexasAssessment.gov](#) website.

Step 1: Questions are written to align with the TEKS, which describe what students should know and be able to do in the biology course.

Step 2: Groups of Texas educators review and approve questions for the biology course to ensure questions are grade-level appropriate, align with the TEKS, 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: Questions that pass all previous steps can be selected for an operational STAAR test form to provide educators and families with information to support teaching and learning.

[STAAR Science Resources](#)

[STAAR Resources for all Assessments](#)

Texas Education Agency Assessment Development Division Updated Fall 2025

MOST POPULAR FAQ: Will the 3rd and 6th grade standards be assessed in Spring 2026?

We announced at the 2024 science state conference that the **grades 3 and 6 will not be included on the 2026 STAAR test forms** to allow for instructional shifts in the new TEKS.

What TEKS are eligible to be assessed with the full implementation into STAAR?

2025-2026	2026-2027
<i>Full Implementation into STAAR</i>	<i>and following years</i>
➤ Assessed Curriculum: NEW Assessed Curriculum documents Full Implementation (Beginning Spring 2026) ➤ Blueprint: NEW blueprints Full Implementation (Beginning Spring 2026) ➤ Reference Materials (Middle School Only): NEW reference materials Middle School Science Reference Materials	➤ Assessed Curriculum: NEW Assessed Curriculum documents Full Implementation (Beginning Spring 2026) ➤ Blueprint: NEW blueprints Full Implementation (Beginning Spring 2026) ➤ Reference Materials (Middle School Only): NEW reference materials Middle School Science Reference Materials
For Spring 2026 ONLY, the grade 3 and grade 6 standards included on the assessed curriculum documents will not be included on STAAR to allow for instructional shifts in the new TEKS.	Beginning with the Spring 2027 administration, all standards on the assessed curriculum documents are available to be assessed on STAAR.



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Supporting Academic Achievement

Science TEKS Updates – FULL IMPLEMENTATION

1

What is available on the TEA website?

2

What do the “shortened blueprints” mean?

3

What is involved with “standard-setting”?

Sub-scores will not be reported.

With the shortened blueprints, the number of questions under each Strand has been proportionally reduced. As a result, the sub-scores will not be reported.



Elementary Science STAAR Blueprint Administered in Grade 5

Effective beginning with the
2025-2026 school year

Strand	Number of Questions	Number of Points
Matter and Energy	3–5	4–7
Force, Motion, and Energy	4–6	5–8
Earth and Space	10–12	11–15
Organisms and Environments	4–6	5–8
Total	24–26	30

Sub-scores will not be reported for this assessment.

Question Types by Point Value	Number of Questions	Number of Points
1-point questions (multiple choice and non-multiple choice)	18–22	18–22
2-point questions (non-multiple choice)	4–6	8–12
Total	24–26	30

Curriculum: All student expectations are required to be taught in their entirety for a grade level or course. The [Assessed Curriculum document](#) outlines the student expectations that are eligible to be assessed on the elementary grade-band science state summative assessment administered in grade 5.

Question types: Drag and drop, hot spot, inline choice, match table grid, multipart, multiple choice, multiselect, short constructed response (SCR), and [cluster question sets](#). Cluster question sets are composed of a stimulus (scenario with a graphic and/or data display) and 3–5 questions. Each question in the cluster counts as a separate question in the blueprint and is scored independently from other questions in the cluster. [Practice Test site](#)

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[STAAR Science Resources](#)

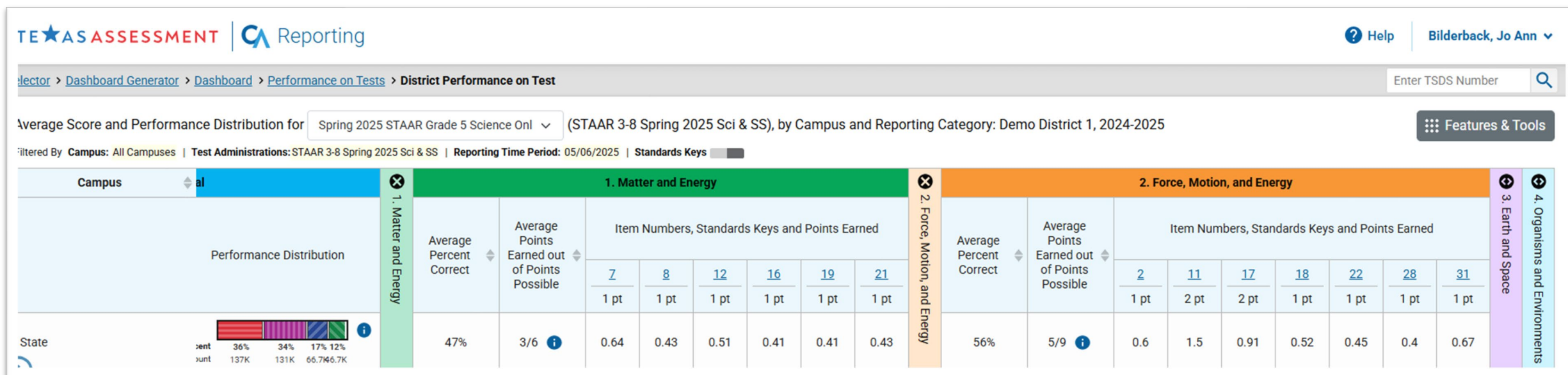
[STAAR Resources for all Assessments](#)

Texas Education Agency

Assessment Development Division

Updated Fall 2025

Teachers can still access information about how students performed for each Strand.



Beginning with the Spring 2026 administration, there will be one tab with the questions listed in numerical order. Teachers can use the published answer key to identify the student expectation and strand for each question.

The published answer key will have a column for Strand in place of the Reporting Category column from previous administrations.

**STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 8 Science
Answer Key**

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
1	Multiple Choice	7.6.(B)	1	B	1	Readiness
2	Drag and Drop	8.9(A)	2	See Appendix 1.1	3	Readiness
3	Multiple Choice	7.6(C)	1	A	1	Supporting
4	Multiple Choice	8.9(B)	1	D	3	Supporting
5	Multiple Choice	8.7(B)	1	D	2	Readiness
6	Multipart	7.10(B)	2	A, D	3	Readiness
7	Multiple Choice	8.12(B)	1	C	4	Supporting
8	Multiple Choice	6.12(A)	1	B	4	Readiness
9	Multiple Choice	6.9(A)	1	B	3	Readiness
10	Multiple Choice	6.6(C)	1	C	1	Supporting
11	Multiple Choice	6.9(B)	1	A	3	Supporting
12	Multiple Choice	8.7(B)	1	D	2	Readiness

**“Strand” will replace
“Reporting Category.”**

Science TEKS Updates – FULL IMPLEMENTATION

1

What is available on the TEA website?

2

What do the “shortened blueprints” mean?

3

What is involved with “standard-setting”?

What is standard-setting?

Standard-setting is the **process of determining the cut scores between each of the performance levels**. This process occurs any time there are new TEKS or a new blueprint.



**Does Not Meet
Grade Level**



**Approaches
Grade Level**



**Meets
Grade Level**



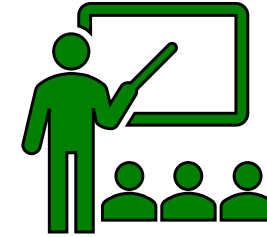
**Masters
Grade Level**

Who participates in standard-setting?

A committee composed of Texas educators meet for standard-setting.



Standard-setting is based, to a large degree, on the judgment of educators.



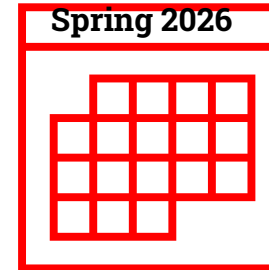
Committee members have relevant content knowledge and experience with a variety of student groups.

- Be subject-matter experts well-versed in the TEKS
- Understand the student population
- Be able to estimate item difficulty
- Understand the instructional environment
- Appreciate the consequences of the standards
- Be representative of key stakeholder groups

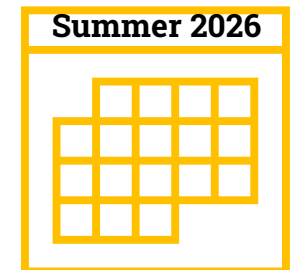
When does **standard-setting** occur?

Typically, this occurs in the summer after the first administration of the new assessment. Due to the graduation requirement connected with the Biology EOC, standard setting will occur in the spring for Biology to ensure results are available before graduation.

Biology EOC



April/May 2026 – Test Administration



Elementary and
Middle School
Science

Additional Content Updates

1 **Science**: Clusters, Inline Choice, Match Table Grid

2 **Math**: Fraction Model (Gr. 6)

3 What test do students take for Advanced Math?

Science will have three new operational question types beginning with the Spring 2026 administration.

How is energy transformed in the examples shown in the table?

Choose the correct answer from the drop-down menus to complete the table.

Examples	Type of Energy Transformation
A battery powers the RFID tag on the cat's collar.	to
The circuit causes the speaker to say the word "food".	to

Inline Choice (drop-down menu)

Complete the table by identifying each example as an inherited trait or a learned behavior.

Examples	Inherited Trait	Learned Behavior
The cat eats its food.	☐	☐
The cat is a gray color.	☐	☐
The dog presses a button when hungry.	☐	☐
The dog begins to drool when food is poured into the bowl.	☐	☐

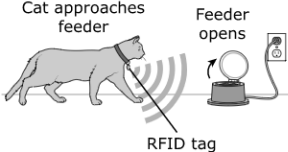
Match Table Grid

Clusters

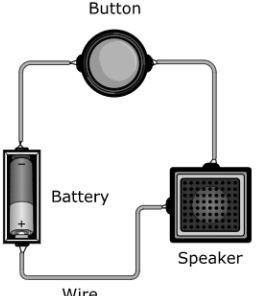
Read the information provided. Then select the best answer to each question.

A student has set up some systems to help feed a pet cat and a pet dog.

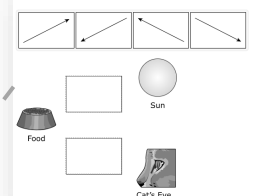
The cat's collar has an RFID tag with a battery. The diagram shows what happens when the cat approaches its feeder.



The dog has been trained to push a button with its paw when it is hungry. When the button is pushed, the speaker says the word "food" and the student then feeds the dog. The button is connected to the circuit shown.



Complete the model shown by identifying the path that light travels to allow the cat to see its food. Move the correct arrow to each box. Not all arrows will be used.



The student notices that the circuit shown in the image has stopped working. When the dog pushes the button, the speaker does not say the word "food."

How should the student fix the circuit?

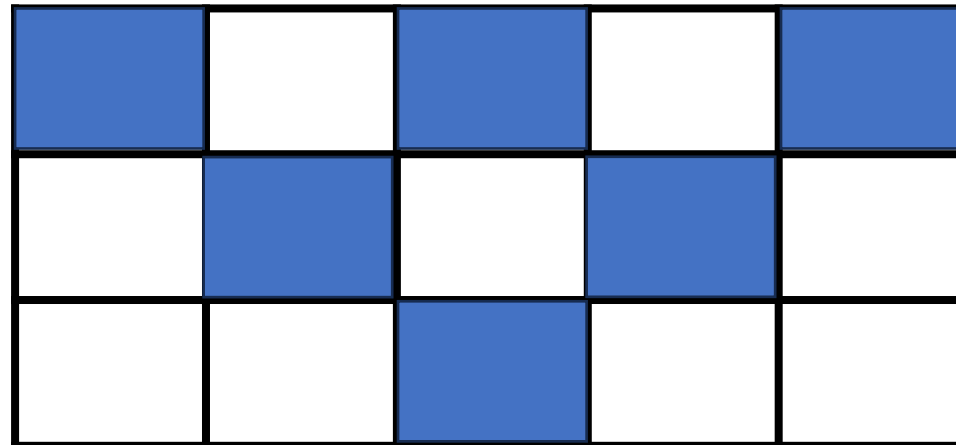
- ☐ Replace the button with a closed switch
- ☐ Add another speaker to the circuit
- ☐ Replace the battery with a new battery
- ☐ Replace the wires with rubber bands

Grade 6 Math will have a new question type that will be field-tested beginning with the Spring 2026 administration.

6.4E Represent ratios and percents with concrete models, fractions, and decimals.

The model is divided into 15 equal sections as shown. Shade the parts so that 40% is shaded.

Select the parts that should be shaded.



What assessment do students in Advanced Math take?



More information is needed to answer this question.

Advanced Math courses adopted by the SBOE

When the students complete course 1, they have covered all of Grade 6 Math and part of Grade 7.

Grade 6 = Grade 6 Math STAAR

When the students complete course 2, they have covered all of Grade 7 Math and most of Grade 8.

Grade 7 = Grade 7 Math STAAR

When the students complete course 3, they have covered all of Grade 8 Math and all of Algebra I.

Grade 8 = Algebra I EOC

Locally developed courses to compact the middle school TEKS

Students will take the STAAR for the highest grade level/course completed during the class. Districts will need to determine which course was covered in its entirety (all TEKS covered); students will take the grade level STAAR/EOC for this course.

Local district evaluates their course to determine the highest completed grade level/course



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HB 8 Updates





House Bill 8 Assessment Updates

How does House Bill 8 impact Assessments?



Starting with the **2027–28 school year**, HB 8 will overhaul the Texas Assessment Program by **replacing STAAR** with a new instructionally supportive assessment program for Texas schools, named the **Student Success Tool (SST)** in statute, which includes:

1. **For Grades 3-8 (including Spanish):**
Required BOY, MOY, & EOY assessments
2. **For EOC:** Optional BOY and MOY assessments, and required EOC assessments (English II will be removed)

SST has the following requirements:

- **Assessments must be shorter than STAAR assessments** and must be designed to support accommodations for students who need them.
- **Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities** are required to be assessed with EOY assessments in the same grades/subjects and courses listed above but **will not participate in BOY or MOY assessments**.
- **Assessment results** must be provided to school systems within **two business days** after the testing window closes.

■ ■ ■ ■ **Balanced** ■ ■ ■ ■ **Innovative** ■ ■ ■ ■ **Streamlined** ■ ■ ■ ■ **Actionable** ■ ■ ■ ■

What are requirements of the SST test design?

	Beginning-of-year (BOY)	Middle-of-year (MOY)	End-of-year (EOY) <i>Two parts</i>	
Calendar	September	January - February	Early April	May
Format*	Adaptive	Adaptive	Static	Static
Question types	Multiple choice/Multiple select	Multiple choice/Multiple select	Extended Constructed Response/ECR	Multiple Choice/Multiple select

Educators will be involved in every part of the development and scoring process

*The BOY and MOY assessments will be adaptive to allow for shorter assessments that provide the most useful student-level information; The EOY assessment will be static to ensure parents and teachers have full access to all released test questions each school year.

Please provide your
feedback.



Thank you for
joining us this
morning.

We appreciate your
attendance and
feedback.

Please contact the **Assessment Help Desk** if you have additional questions.

