

March 1, 2024

Subject: December 2023 STAAR Extended Constructed Responses

To the Regional and District Testing Coordinators Addressed:

The purpose of this communication is to notify local educational agencies of the opportunity to receive additional information on certain students' extended constructed responses (ECRs) for the December 2023 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®). District testing coordinators may find this additional information useful when responding to questions related to the hybrid scoring model for the Texas Assessment Program.

As announced in September 2023, ECR questions for the redesigned STAAR reading language arts assessments are now being scored using a hybrid scoring model. This means that the responses are initially scored by an automated scoring engine (ASE), and about 25 percent of student responses are then routed to human scorers for various audit purposes. Refer to the STAAR Constructed Response Scoring Process document available on the [STAAR Resources](#) webpage for more information on the hybrid scoring model.

Throughout the scoring window, both ASE and human scoring results are monitored daily to ensure that scores consistently align to the scoring rubrics. The ECRs are scored using a 5-point rubric based on two traits—development and organization of ideas (up to 3 points) and language conventions (up to 2 points). The scoring rubric is used to determine the effectiveness of each written response.

The ASE assigns condition codes to some student responses, which are then routed to trained human scorers. Condition codes indicate that a response uses just a few words, uses mostly duplicated text, is written in another language, consists primarily of stimulus material, uses vocabulary that does not overlap with the vocabulary in the subset of responses used to program the ASE, or uses language patterns that are reflective of off-topic or off-task responses. The purpose of this routing is to ensure that these unusual responses receive fair and accurate scoring. The score assigned by the human scorer is kept as the score of record for any student response that is routed for human scoring.

Unlike spring STAAR assessments, the December 2023 STAAR end-of-course assessments are not being released due to the need to potentially reuse test questions, therefore student responses will also not be released. However, based on educator inquiries about this first use of the hybrid scoring model for a STAAR administration, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is allowing district testing coordinators the opportunity to receive additional information about ECRs that received a score of zero. To preserve the security of the test content for future use of the questions, information will be available only for responses that received a score of zero. District coordinators will be provided with the number of blank responses, the number of responses that were nonscorable due to a condition code, and the number of responses with text that received a score of zero. After reviewing this information, the district coordinator may request a scheduled appointment, if needed, to view the responses with text that received a score of zero. This opportunity, available within the next month, is only for viewing students' responses—scoring questions, rubric explanations, and rescore requests will not be covered during this viewing opportunity due to test security requirements.

This is optional for school systems. District testing coordinators who would like to receive additional information about their students' ECRs for the December 2023 STAAR administration must notify TEA using the link below by **11:59 p.m. (CT) March 12, 2024**.

[December 2023 STAAR Extended Constructed Responses](#)

If you have questions about the information in this communication or about the Texas Assessment Program, contact TEA using the Student Assessment [Help Desk](#).

Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division
(512) 463-9536