

**State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) 3–8  
Standard-Setting Process Overview**

Standard-Setting Step	Description	Timeline
1. Conduct validity and linking studies	External validity evidence is collected to inform standard setting and support interpretations of the performance standards. Scores on each assessment are linked across grades to performance on other assessments in the same subject area.	Studies started in spring 2011 and will continue throughout the program.
2. Develop performance labels and policy definitions	Committee is convened jointly by the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to recommend performance categories, performance category labels, and general policy definitions for each performance category.	September 2010
3. Develop grade/subject specific performance level descriptors (PLDs)	Committees consisting primarily of educators develop performance level descriptors as an aligned system, describing a reasonable progression of skills within a subject area (reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies).	June 2012
4. Develop performance standard ranges	EOC performance standards and empirical study results are used to identify reasonable ranges (“neighborhoods”) for the cut scores for Levels II and III.	July 2012
5. Convene standard-setting committees	Committees consisting of K–12 educators use the performance labels, policy definitions, PLDs, and neighborhoods to recommend cut scores for each STAAR assessment.	October 2–12, 2012
6. Review performance standards for reasonableness	TEA reviews the cut-score recommendations across grades and subject areas.	October 2012
7. Approve performance standards	The Commissioner of Education approves performance standards.	December 2012
8. Implement performance standards	Performance standards are reported to students for the spring 2012 administration with phase-in standards applied.	January 2013
9. Review performance standards	Performance standards are reviewed at least once every three years.	Fall 2014