

What are Performance Levels? What are Enhanced Performance Levels?

Student performance on STAAR is separated into four performance categories—Masters Grade Level, Meets Grade Level, Approaches Grade Level, and Did Not Meet Grade Level. See the TEA Student Assessment Division’s website on [STAAR Performance Standards](#).

For each STAAR tested subject, performance level indicators are reported on the assessment data files according to the Data File Format. See the TEA Student Assessment Division’s website on [Data File Formats](#).

For the purposes of A-F state accountability, starting with the 2023 STAAR assessment data file, the performance level indicators of Did Not Meet and Approaches were divided into Low/High: Did Not Meet Low/Did Not Meet High and Approaches Low/Approaches High. The STAAR Alternate 2 performance level indicator of Developing was divided into Low/High. These are called ‘enhanced’ performance levels and are used in accountability. See below for additional information.

For example:

STAAR:

Performance Level Indicator – Reading Language Arts	00 = Excluded 0L = Did Not Meet Low 0H = Did not Meet High 1L = Approaches Low 1H = Approaches High 2M = Meets 3M = Masters
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STAAR Alternate 2:

Performance Level Indicator- Reading Language Arts	00 = Excluded 0L = Developing Low 0H = Developing High 2M = Satisfactory 3M = Accomplished
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What assessments have enhanced performance level indicators?

- **STAAR and STAAR EOC:**
 - Grades 3-5 Math and Reading Language Arts (English and Spanish) – Spring Administration
 - Grade 5 Science (English and Spanish) – Spring Administration
 - Grades 6-8 Math and Reading Language Arts- Spring Administration
 - Grade 8 Science and Social Studies
 - Algebra I, English I, and English II – June, December, and Spring Administrations
 - Biology I and US History – June, December, and Spring Administrations
- **STAAR Alternate 2:**
 - Grades 3-8 Math and Reading Language Arts – Spring Administration
 - Algebra I, English I, and English II – Spring Administration

What data are used to calculate the enhanced performance levels?

After each STAAR test administration is complete, raw scores are converted to scale scores to quantify student performance relative to the performance levels. See the TEA Student Assessment Division’s website on [Raw Score Conversion Tables](#).

The latest STAAR results are then used to calculate the enhanced performance level indicators. For Algebra I, English I, and English II, enhanced performance levels apply to the June, December, and Spring administrations.

How are the scale scores determined for the enhanced performance levels?

Each subject/grade combination’s STAAR chance raw scores established in Spring 2023 are considered for determining the Low/High performance levels. A chance score is a raw score that could be reasonably attained through guessing alone.

1. In the *Did Not Meet* performance level, find the median between chance and the highest value in *DNM*.
 - If an even number divide in half.
 - If an odd number, that median belongs to *Did Not Meet High*.
2. In the *Approaches* performance level, find the median using raw score points:
 - If an even number divide in half.
 - If an odd number, that median belongs to *Approaches High*.
3. In the *Developing* performance level, count from raw score point 1 to the performance level cut.
 - If an even number divide in half.
 - If an odd number, the cut goes to *Developing High*.

For questions about the technical details, contact performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov.

Where can I find the raw scores and scale scores for enhanced performance levels?

Each year, the administration’s raw scores and scale scores associated with the enhanced performance levels are posted on the applicable year’s accountability website [[2024](#), [2023](#)].

What are Math and RLA enhanced performance levels used for?

STAAR (3-8) and STAAR EOC enhanced performance levels are used to calculate School Progress, Part A: Academic Growth within the A-F accountability system in the subject areas of Math and Reading Language Arts.

How are the enhanced performance levels used to measure annual growth for School Progress, Part A: Academic Growth?

Annual growth indicates the amount of improvement or growth a student has made from year to year. As of the 2023 refreshed A-F accountability system, annual growth is measured by a **transition table**.

Grade 3 PL		Grade 4 PL					
		Did Not Meet		Approaches		Meets	Masters
		Low	High	Low	High		
Did Not Meet	Low	-					
	High	-					
Approaches	Low	-	-				
	High	-	-	-			
Meets		-	-	-	-	-	
Masters		-	-	-	-	-	

Adapted from [Martineau](#).

This transition table tracks individual student progress based on enhanced performance levels from the prior year to the current year. School Progress, Part A evaluates:

- STAAR (with and without accommodations)
- STAAR Alternate 2 assessment results for grades 4–8
- STAAR English I, English II, and Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) assessment results.

The evaluations include results for all assessments that were eligible for an annual growth score including:

- STAAR to STAAR
- English to Spanish STAAR or Spanish to English STAAR
- STAAR Alt to STAAR Alt
- 1st time English I EOC to 1st time English II EOC
- *SAT/ACT results for accelerated testers are not included in the School Progress, Part A evaluations.*

Eligibility requires that students:

- Met the accountability subset.
- Had a non-zero STAAR assessment result in both the 2023 and 2024 accountability years.

Where can I find more detailed information on the use of enhanced performance levels in accountability?

More information is available in [Chapter 3](#) of the [Accountability Manual](#).

What are Science and Social Studies enhanced performance levels used for?

Students who fall into the "Low Does Not Meet" category of STAAR performance are required to receive no less than 30 hours of supplemental accelerated instruction, aligning with [HB1416 requirements](#). The subjects and grade levels applicable to students receiving accelerated instruction who do not achieve approaches or higher are STAAR grades 3–8 (math, RLA, science, social studies) and STAAR EOC (Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, U.S. History).

More information regarding HB1416 can be found [here](#).