

Assessment Guidance

Updated as of March 19, 2020

1. If a student is a senior but still must complete one or more EOCs to graduate, will he/she be able to graduate?

Most students have already completed courses that have corresponding EOC assessments before their senior year. Normally, a student who has not passed up to two of his or her required STAAR EOC assessments may graduate through the individual graduation committee (IGC) process. For students who are still working to meet assessment graduation requirements as seniors in the 2019–2020 school year, required performance on academic assessments to graduate under TEC, §28.025(c) and §39.025(a) is being waived for spring 2020. Effectively, this means that current seniors may graduate through the IGC process regardless of the number of EOC assessments they still need to pass.

2. If a student is not graduating this year and still has one or more EOCs required to graduate, how will that affect the student's credit in the upcoming year?

The required performance on academic assessments under TEC, §28.025(c) and §39.025(a) is being waived for spring 2020 only. This means:

- If the student is not graduating and is currently enrolled in an EOC course, the EOC passing requirement will be waived if the student receives credit for that course.
- If the student is not graduating and has an outstanding EOC assessment that they have not passed from a previous year, they will still need to retake and pass that EOC assessment prior to graduation.

3. What assessments have been cancelled for this school year?

Academic assessment requirements are suspended for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year. This includes all STAAR assessments including tests for grades 3-8, End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments, and STAAR Alternate 2 tests.

4. Will schools and districts be held to federal testing and accountability requirements?

TEA is working with the United States Department of Education to request waivers from federal testing and accountability requirements for the 2019–2020 school year.

5. Will the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) and TELPAS Alternate administration window be extended?

The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) and TELPAS Alternate administration windows are currently open and are being extended to remain open through May 29, 2020, for a district to complete optionally if it chooses. Scoring data will be provided for each TELPAS

domain a student completes. TEA is looking at exit criteria for English learners to determine what adjustments may be made this year for this determination. These discussions are ongoing, and more information will be provided the week of 3/23.

6. How will the timelines for Interim Assessments be adjusted?

The second testing window for the STAAR Interim Assessments is currently open and will continue to be open through May 29, 2020 for districts to use as a resource to monitor student progress. As a reminder, the interim assessments are optional, are available at no cost to districts and charter schools, they are not tied to accountability, and results are not reported to TEA.

7. Given the absence of STAAR, what other opportunities do I have for progress monitoring?

The agency is working on additional options that will be useful for local districts. These can complement the tools that local districts have developed or are planning to develop on their own.