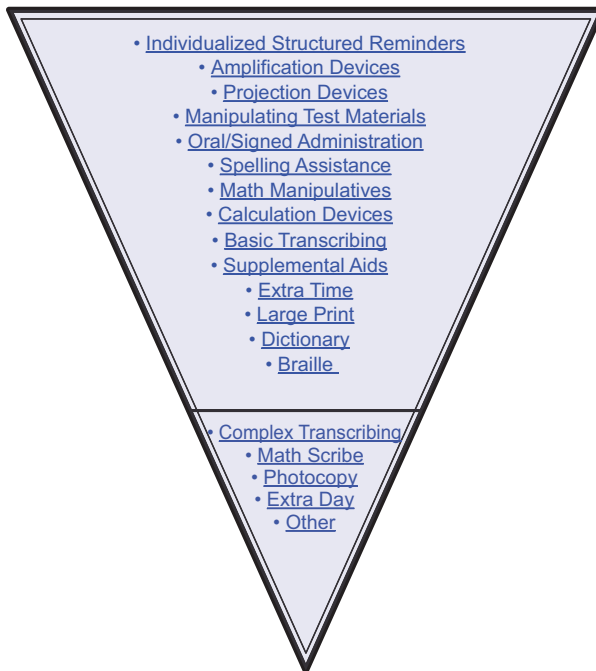


## Allowable Accommodations

The decision to use an accommodation during a state assessment is made on an individual student basis and considers the needs of the student and whether the student routinely receives the accommodation during classroom instruction and testing.

The Accommodation Triangle below organizes accommodations by type. The complete Accommodation Triangle, with links to each accommodation, is available on the TEA Student Assessment website.



Note: For information regarding linguistic accommodations for English language learners, go to the TEA Student Assessment website.



For more information, visit the TEA Student Assessment website or contact TEA at the numbers listed below.

### TEA's Student Assessment Division

(512) 463-9536

### TEA's Curriculum Division and Dyslexia Contact Information

(512) 463-9581

### TEA's Division of Federal and State Education Policy

(512) 463-9414

### TEA's Section 504 Contact Information

(512) 463-9290

# Making Assessment Decisions for Students with Disabilities

## A Parent's Guide to State Assessments for Students with Disabilities

This brochure is intended to help parents of students with disabilities understand the Texas Assessment Program\*.

A student with a disability can be a student

- with an identified disability who receives special education services;
- with an identified disability who receives services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or
- with a disabling condition who does not receive special education or Section 504 services.

The Texas Assessment Program is a statewide testing program that includes the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®), STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, STAAR A, and STAAR Alternate 2. Although most students will take STAAR with or without allowable accommodations, a student with a disability may have choices regarding which of these assessments is most appropriate.

\* For information about the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) or the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS), go to the TEA Student Assessment website.

## Assessment Options

### STAAR

Grades 3–8 include assessments of mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies at different grade levels. In addition, STAAR Spanish is available for all tested subjects in grades 3–5. STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) assessments are available for Algebra I, English I, English II, biology, and U.S. history.

### STAAR L

A linguistically accommodated English version of the STAAR grades 3–8 and EOC assessments in mathematics, science, and social studies for English language learners (ELLs) who meet participation requirements. The passing standards for STAAR L are the same as any STAAR assessment.

### STAAR A

An accommodated version of all STAAR grades 3–8 and EOC assessments for students receiving special education services and students identified with dyslexia or a related disorder receiving Section 504 services who meet specific eligibility criteria. The passing standards for STAAR A are the same as any STAAR assessment.

### STAAR Alternate 2

An assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities receiving special education services. Additionally, students must meet participation requirements.

## Making the Assessment Decision

Most students will take STAAR with or without allowable accommodations. Students are required by Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.025(c) to meet all curriculum requirements and pass all five EOC assessments in order to receive a Texas high school diploma.

### Students Receiving Section 504 Services

Students are required by TEC §28.025(c) to meet all curriculum requirements and pass all five EOC assessments in order to receive a Texas high school diploma.

- Most students will take STAAR with or without allowable accommodations.
- If a student is identified with dyslexia or a related disorder as defined in TEC §38.003, review the eligibility requirements for STAAR A on the TEA Student Assessment website.

### Students Receiving Special Education Services

The admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee makes educational decisions for a student, including whether satisfactory performance on an EOC assessment shall also be required for graduation per Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1070(b).

- Most students will take STAAR with or without allowable accommodations.
- If a student needs more significant accommodations, review the eligibility requirements for STAAR A on the TEA Student Assessment website.
- If a student has a significant cognitive disability and accesses the grade-level Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum through prerequisite

skills, review the participation requirements for STAAR Alternate 2 on the TEA Student Assessment website.

### English Language Learners

Students are required by TEC §28.025(c) to meet all curriculum requirements and pass all five EOC assessments in order to receive a Texas high school diploma.

- Most students will take STAAR with or without allowable accommodations.
- STAAR Spanish is available for students receiving instruction in Spanish in grades 3–5.
- STAAR L is available for students who need a higher degree of linguistic accommodation and who meet participation requirements.

For students with disabilities who are also ELLs, the ARD committee, in conjunction with the language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC), makes educational decisions for a student, including whether satisfactory performance on an EOC assessment shall also be required for graduation per TAC §89.1070(b).

### Student Success Initiative (SSI)

The SSI grade advancement requirements apply to students who take the STAAR, STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, or STAAR A reading and mathematics\* tests at grades 5 and 8. For more information, including information regarding retesting, accelerated instruction, and automatic retention, go to the TEA Student Assessment website.

\*Beginning in the 2014–2015 school year, the state is changing what your child is learning in mathematics. Because of these changes, the SSI retest and promotion requirements do not apply to mathematics at grades 5 or 8 in the 2014–2015 school year.