

Seguin ISD Assessment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Curriculum Based Assessments (CBAs)

1. What are Curriculum Based Assessments (CBAs)?

Curriculum Based Assessments (CBAs) are cumulative tests that are tied to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These types of assessments are used at both the elementary and secondary grade levels.

2. What is the purpose of CBAs?

The purpose of CBAs is to monitor students' progress on mastery of the TEKS covered up to that point of the school year. The results of the CBAs are evaluated by teachers to make adjustments to their instruction to meet students' needs. CBAs help prepare students to be successful in their classes as well as on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) and End-of-Course (EOC) assessments.

3. When are CBAs administered?

CBAs are administered in October, December, and May. One CBA for subjects in grade 2 will be administered in the Spring semester.

4. What grade levels and subjects will take CBAs?

- Grade 2: Math and Reading
- Grade 3: Math, Reading, Science
- Grade 4: Math, Reading, Science, Writing
- Grade 5: Math, Reading, Science
- Grades 6-8: Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Writing (grade 7 only)
- High School: English I, II; Algebra I ; Biology; US History

Note: Students who will be assessed with the STAAR-Alt 2 during the spring semester will not be required to complete CBAs.

5. How many questions are on the CBA?

For all grade levels and content areas, CBAs will consist of no more than 20 questions.

6. How much time will be given for students to complete the CBA?

CBAs are designed to be completed within one class period.

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Benchmark Assessments

1. What are Benchmark Assessments?

Benchmark assessments are tests that are tied to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and are ONLY given in grade levels/subject areas that have an associated State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) or End-of-Course (EOC) assessment. These types of assessments are used at both the elementary and secondary grade levels.

2. What is the purpose of Benchmark Assessments?

The purpose of Benchmarks is to determine if students are on track to perform well on future standardized assessments, such as the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). Released STAAR tests are often used, meaning that students will be assessed over TEKS that have been taught AND not taught.

3. When are Benchmark Assessments administered?

Each STAAR or EOC-tested subject will administer one Benchmark Assessment during the school year. For the following subjects, the Benchmark Assessment will be in the fall semester: Grade 4 and 7 Writing, Grade 5 and 8 Reading, Grade 5 and 8 Math. Benchmark Assessments for all other secondary and elementary STAAR or EOC-tested subjects will be given in the spring semester.

4. What grade levels and subjects will take Benchmark Assessments?

Only STAAR or EOC-tested subjects will take a Benchmark Assessment. Below is a complete list of grade levels and subject areas:

- Grade 3: Math and Reading
- Grade 4: Math, Reading, Writing
- Grade 5: Math, Reading, Science
- Grade 6: Math and Reading
- Grade 7: Math, Reading, Writing
- Grade 8: Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies
- High School: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, US History

Note: Students who will be assessed with the STAAR-Alt 2 during the Spring semester will not be required to complete Benchmark Assessments. All other Special Education students will be required to complete Benchmark Assessments, unless otherwise specified in an ARD meeting.

5. How many questions are on the Benchmark Assessments?

Released STAAR or EOC tests are typically used for benchmark assessments and the number of questions will vary by grade level and content area.

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6. How much time will be given for students to complete the Benchmark Assessment?

Benchmark assessments are usually given in a simulated standardized testing environment. The length of time given will be the same required by state regulations for STAAR or EOC exams.

7. Will an online version of the Benchmark Assessment be available?

In the 2018-2019 school year, Seguin ISD will utilize the STAAR Interim Assessments provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as an online benchmark assessment. These assessments are only available in the following grade levels and subject areas:

- Grade 3: Math and Reading
- Grade 4: Math and Reading
- Grade 5: Math and Reading
- Grade 6: Math and Reading
- Grade 7: Math and Reading
- Grade 8: Math and Reading
- High School: English I, English II, Algebra I

Campus administrators will determine if a paper or online version of the benchmark assessment will be administered. For more information, visit the TEA Interim Assessment [website](#).

Additional Information

1. Will students be allowed to use designated supports (formerly known as accommodations) on district assessments?

Students who routinely and effectively use allowable designated supports during classroom instruction will be allowed to use them during both CBAs and Benchmark Assessments.

2. Where can I find a schedule of district assessments?

The 2018-2019 Seguin ISD State and Local Assessment Calendar is located on the LLS Department website. This schedule contains dates for both district developed and state assessments, such as STAAR and the SAT.

3. What other types of district assessments will my child be required to take?

Students in Prekindergarten, elementary and middle schools may also be required to complete universal screening assessments in Reading and Math to help campuses better address students learning in these areas.

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Grading Guidelines

1. Does a CBA or Benchmark Assessment count for a grade?

CBA's count as a Daily Grade for elementary and secondary grades.

Benchmark Assessments may not be taken as a major grade or daily grade, per the Seguin ISD Grading Guidelines.

2. Will a student be allowed to re-test on a CBA?

Yes, since CBA's are used for a grade, the district's grading guidelines shall be followed. The teacher will use the results to modify instruction and plan for student's needs. The district will utilize the grade from the primary attempt for campus monitoring; therefore, the answer documents will only be scanned once.

3. Will a student be allowed to re-test on a Benchmark Assessment?

Since Benchmark Assessments are used to monitor student progress and future performance on STAAR or EOC assessments, a student is not allowed to re-test. The teacher uses the results to modify the instruction and plan for student's needs.

4. If my child is absent, can they make up a CBA or Benchmark Assessments?

According to district grading guidelines [EIA Local], a student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of an absence. For an **excused absence**, the time allotted will be equal to a day for a day of absence. For example, a student absent for five (5) days will be allotted 5 days to complete the missed assignment. For an **unexcused absence**, make-up work/test after an unexcused absence shall receive a maximum grade of 70. The time allotted will be equal to a day for a day of absence.

5. Do CBA's and Benchmark Assessments administered in Seguin ISD exceed the number of assessments approved through the state legislature?

No, Seguin ISD and all campuses adhere to the House Bill 5 Legislative regulation that only permits two (2) benchmarks per subject area each year.