

## When are the STAAR EOCs administered?

Each test is given three times a year to provide multiple testing opportunities for those who do not pass an assessment on the initial attempt.

The STAAR End-of-Course tests are offered in the fall, spring and summer of each year.

### 2020-2021 STAAR END-OF-COURSE TEST ADMINISTRATION DATES

| SUBJECT      | FALL                      | SPRING                | SUMMER                |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| English I    | December 8 <sup>th</sup>  | April 6 <sup>th</sup> | June 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Algebra I    | December 9 <sup>th</sup>  | May 4 <sup>th</sup>   | TBD                   |
| U.S. History | December 9 <sup>th</sup>  | May 6 <sup>th</sup>   | TBD                   |
| English II   | December 10 <sup>th</sup> | April 8 <sup>th</sup> | June 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Biology      | December 11 <sup>th</sup> | May 5 <sup>th</sup>   | TBD                   |

### For additional information about STAAR

- Visit the Texas Education Agency, Student Assessment webpage at: <https://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/>
- [https://tea.texas.gov/Student\\_Testing\\_and\\_Accountability/Testing/Testing](https://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Testing/Testing)
- [https://tea.texas.gov/Student\\_Testing\\_and\\_Accountability/Testing/Student\\_Assessment\\_Overview/Assessment\\_Resources\\_for\\_Students\\_and\\_Parents](https://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Testing/Student_Assessment_Overview/Assessment_Resources_for_Students_and_Parents)
- <https://www.texasassessment.com/>

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## State Testing & Accountability

Texas' student assessment program is designed to measure the extent to which a student has learned and is able to apply the defined knowledge and skills at each tested grade or course level.



## STAAR EOC EXAMS



Algebra I  
English I  
English II  
Biology  
U.S. History

House Bill 5 reduced the number of STAAR End of Course (EOC) Exams from 15 to 5 and eliminated the requirement that test results constitute 15% of an overall course grade.

Students who do not successfully complete the EOC will be given the support and assistance they need to successfully complete a retest.



### Who takes the STAAR test?

Students who entered the ninth grade in the 2011-12 school year or later must pass the STAAR End-of-Course tests to graduate from a Texas public high school. This evaluation includes assessments in the following subjects:

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English I  
English II  
Algebra I  
Biology  
U.S. History

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### How are the tests administered?

Each test can be taken either on paper or on-line. Students have four hours to complete the Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History tests. They are allotted five hours to complete the English I and English II exams.

### What happens if a student completes the course and does not pass the test?

If a student passes the course but does not pass the test, the student may take the test again. However, a student is not required to retake a course just because he failed the test. The school is required to provide accelerated instruction to each student who does not show satisfactory performance on STAAR.

### Will students who receive special education services take the STAAR?

The admission, review & dismissal (ARD) committee will determine the appropriate test for a student who receives special education services. Some students will take the general STAAR. Others will take the STAAR Alternate 2. The STAAR Alternate 2, however, is only available for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

### How do I know if my child passed the test?

Student performance on the STAAR End-of-Course test is described by one of these three categories:

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| MASTERS    | Masters Grade Level    |
| MEETS      | Meets Grade Level      |
| APPROACHES | Approaches Grade Level |

- **(MASTERS)** Performance in this category indicates that students are expected to succeed in the next grade or course with little or no academic intervention. Students in this category demonstrate the ability to think critically and apply the assessed knowledge and skills in varied contexts, both familiar and unfamiliar.
- **(MEETS)** Performance in this category indicates that students have a high likelihood of success in the next grade or course but may still need some short-term, targeted academic intervention. Students in this category generally demonstrate the ability to think critically and apply the assessed knowledge and skills in familiar contexts.
- **(APPROACHES)** Performance in this category indicates that students are likely to succeed in the next grade or course with targeted academic intervention. Students in this category generally demonstrate the ability to apply the assessed knowledge and skills in familiar contexts.

If a student took an End-of-Course in middle school and passed, then the student is not required to retake the test in high school.



# GOODRICH HIGH SCHOOL STATE ASSESSMENT CALENDAR 2020 – 2021

| TEST DATE/ASSESSMENT WINDOW   | STAAR EOC TEST ADMINISTRATIONS   |
|---|--|
| December 8 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)                                  | English I  |
| December 9 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)                                | Algebra I & U.S. History   |
| December 10 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)                                | English II   |
| December 11 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)                                  | Biology  |
| December 11 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)                                  | All make-up sessions for paper and online STAAR EOC assessments scheduled to be administered from Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> - Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day.  |
| February 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Monday) – April 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Friday) | TELPAS Grades K-12 Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing   |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)                                     | English I  |
| April 8 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)                                    | English II   |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)                                      | All make-up sessions for paper and online STAAR EOC assessments scheduled to be administered from Apr. 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day.  |
| May 4 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)                                       | Algebra I  |
| May 5 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)                                     | Biology  |
| May 6 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)                                      | U.S. History   |
| May 7 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)  | All make-up sessions for paper and online STAAR EOC assessments scheduled to be administered from May 4 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day.   |
| June 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday)                                     | English I  |
| June 24 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)                                    | English II   |
| June 22 <sup>nd</sup> - June 24 <sup>th</sup>                       | Algebra I, Biology, U.S. History   |
| June 25 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)                                      | All make-up sessions for paper and online STAAR EOC assessments scheduled to be administered from Jun. 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day.<br>Make-up sessions for online STAAR assessments with a writing component (English I and English II) must be completed by the end of this day. |



**GOODRICH MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STATE ASSESSMENT CALENDAR  
2020 – 2021**

| <b>TEST DATE/ASSESSMENT WINDOW</b>                                  | <b>STAAR TEST ADMINISTRATIONS</b>  |
|---|--|
| February 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Monday) – April 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Friday) | TELPAS Grades K-12 Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing   |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)                                     | <b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing</b>  |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)                                      | All make-up sessions for paper STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from Apr. 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day.       |
| May 6 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)                                      | <b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science</b>  |
| May 7 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)  | <b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies</b>   |
| May 7 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)  | All make-up sessions for paper STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from May 4 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day.        |
| May 11 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)                                      | <b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math<br/>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math</b>   |
| May 12 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)                                    | <b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading<br/>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading</b>  |
| May 14 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)                                       | All make-up sessions for paper STAAR Grades 3-8 assessments scheduled to be administered May 6 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day. |



**GOODRICH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
STATE ASSESSMENT CALENDAR  
2020 – 2021**

| <b>TEST DATE/ASSESSMENT WINDOW</b>                                       | <b>STAAR TEST ADMINISTRATIONS</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>February 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday) – April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Friday)</b> | TELPAS Grades K-12 Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing<br>TELPAS Grades K-1 Reading  |
| <b>February 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday) – April 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday)</b> | TELPAS Grades 2-12 Reading   |
| <b>April 6<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)</b>                                    | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing</b>  |
| <b>April 9<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)</b>                                   | All make-up sessions for paper STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from Apr. 6 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day. |
| <b>May 11<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)</b>                                     | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math<br/>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math</b>   |
| <b>May 12<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)</b>                                   | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading<br/>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading</b>  |
| <b>May 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)</b>                                    | <b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science</b>  |
| <b>May 14<sup>th</sup> (Friday)</b>                                      | All make-up sessions for paper STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from May 6 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, <b>must</b> be completed by the end of this day.   |

## **STAAR Tested Subject Areas/Grade Levels Administered**

Grade 3: Reading and Math

Grade 4: Reading, Math, and Writing

Grade 5: Reading, Math, and Science

Grade 6: Reading and Math

Grade 7: Reading, Math, and Writing

Grade 8: Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies

High School - End of Course STAAR Exams: Algebra I, English I, Biology, English II, and U.S. History

## **How Texas STAAR Tests Are Scored**

STAAR performance standards relate levels of test performance to the expectations defined in the state-mandated curriculum standards known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Cut scores, established by the agency, distinguish between performance levels or categories. The process of establishing cut scores that define performance levels for an assessment, is standard setting. Standard setting is also used to classify students into an appropriate performance category.

- Masters Grade Level/Course Performance Standards
- Meets Grade Level/Course Performance Standards
- Approaches Grade Level/Course Performance Standards
- Did Not Meet Grade Level/Course Performance Standards

# The Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI)

## Waiver of the Student Success Initiative Promotion Requirements

**\*In light of past and current impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, SSI promotion/retention and retesting requirements have been waived for the 2020–2021 school year.**

The Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI), which was passed by the 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 1999. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that every student makes the academic progress necessary to show a sufficient understanding of the knowledge and skills taught and tested at each grade level.

**The SSI requires that Grade 5 and Grade 8 students meet the passing standards on STAAR tests in mathematics and reading before they can be promoted to the next grade.**

Please note that these testing requirements are part of an overall system of support for student academic achievement. This system includes

- evaluation of student needs at grades that precede SSI grades and academic support for students who need additional instruction;
- ongoing evaluation of student progress during the school year with assistance provided to all students with identified academic weaknesses;
- three opportunities to pass the state assessments;
- additional instruction after each test administration for students who do not meet the passing standard on a subject-area test;
- a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal, teacher, and parent or guardian, that meets when a student has not met the passing standard after two testing opportunities and that decides the most effective way to support the child's academic success; and an instructional plan for the next school year for every student who has not met the passing standard after three opportunities, regardless of whether the student is retained or, upon parent appeal, is promoted by the grade placement committee. The SSI recognizes and supports the important role parents play in the education of their children. Your child's teacher and I depend upon and look forward to working with you to help your child succeed.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>DATE:</b>       | <b>July 27, 2020</b>   |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>    | <b>Waiver of the Student Success Initiative (SSI) Promotion Requirements</b> |
| <b>CATEGORY:</b>   | <b>Student Assessment</b>  |
| <b>NEXT STEPS:</b> | <b>Please share with district and campus administrators</b>                  |

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform districts and open-enrollment charter schools about changes to the Student Success Initiative (SSI) promotion/retention and retesting requirements for the 2020–2021 school year.

In light of past and anticipated impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the commissioner of education is exercising his authority under Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 7.056, to waive the requirements of TEC, Section 28.0211 regarding grade promotion requirements for students in fifth and eighth grade for the 2020–2021 school year.

School districts and open-enrollment charter schools are not required to apply for a waiver of these SSI requirements.

Students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 are still required to take the appropriate State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR<sup>®</sup>) tests once. Regardless of their score, retest opportunities will not be provided. Districts will have local discretion on whether these students should advance to the next grade, just like students in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7. These decisions should be based on local criteria that reflect a student’s academic achievement and mastery of subject matter, and should include STAAR assessment results, along with other relevant information. Districts are still responsible for providing accelerated instruction and supports for students that fail to perform satisfactorily on STAAR. Furthermore, although students in grades 5 and 8 will not be retained solely on the basis of STAAR results, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools will remain accountable for student performance.

As a part of this waiver, there will only be one administration of the STAAR grades 5 and 8 mathematics and reading assessments for the 2020–2021 school year. This administration will be in May to coincide with the administration of other STAAR grades 3–8 assessments. The 2020–2021 testing calendar has been updated to reflect these changes and is available at [Testing Calendar](#).

If you have any questions about this information, please send them to the [Student Assessment Help Desk](#).



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ABOUT THE STAAR TEST

### **Who?**

All public school students in Texas, Grades 3–12, take STAAR tests.

### **What?**

STAAR is the state's testing program and is based on state curriculum standards in core subjects including reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.

### **When?**

STAAR tests are given in the spring. The number of tests your child takes each year will depend on what grade he or she is in. Most students will have two to four testing days during the 180-day school year.

### **Where?**

STAAR tests are given to students at their own school, in regular classrooms that have been cleared and set up to make it easy to focus on the test. If students have certain special needs and require special accommodations, they may be tested in a different area of the school.

### **Why?**

STAAR tests are designed to measure what students are learning in each grade and whether or not they are ready for the next grade. The goal is to ensure that all students receive what they need to be academically successful. Meeting these individual student needs depends greatly on schools, parents, and community members working together.

### **How?**

STAAR tests for Grades 3–8 and EOC are offered in both online and paper formats.

# Time Limits for Assessments



The STAAR assessments are designed so that students can complete the 3rd–5th grade assessments in two hours and the 6th–8th grade assessments in three hours. If needed, students can take up to four hours to complete their assessment. The time limits for the assessments were set to provide students the time they needed without causing additional stress and worry. The time limit for STAAR end-of-course assessments is also four hours, except for the STAAR English I, English II and English III assessments, which have a time limit of up to five hours.

The testing time begins after all directions are read to the students. Students may be allowed to take breaks during testing, potentially including breaks for snacks or meals. Once a student completes and turns in or submits the test, the student may quietly read a book or may be allowed to leave the testing area.

For students who need additional assistance while taking a state assessment, accessibility features and designated supports may be available. Accessibility features are available to any student and include things such as scratch paper, highlighters, small group administrations, and translating test directions. Designated supports are available to students who meet specific eligibility criteria and are either locally determined or TEA approved. These accommodations include extra time to complete the test, oral/signed administrations of test questions, calculation aids, and spelling assistance on writing tests. For all accommodations, it's important to coordinate with campus staff about eligibility requirements or any other specific questions you may have. Additional information about testing accommodations may be found on [TEA's Accommodations Resources webpage](#).