

How COVID-19 is impacting 2020 Accountability



Based on TEA correspondence – as of March 27, 2020



STAAR Testing

- Cancelled for the Remainder of the School Year
 - All STAAR Grades 3-8 Assessments scheduled for April, May and June
 - EOC scheduled for April, May and June
 - STAAR Alternate 2 scheduled for March 30 – April 21, 2020



TELPAS and TELPAS Alternate

- The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System and TELPAS Alternate administration windows are currently open.
- They are extended to remain open through May 29, 2020.
- Districts have the option to complete TELPAS and TELPAS Alternate.

[TEA Correspondence - 3/18/20](#)



TEA Correspondence 3/18/2020



Cancellation of STAAR Testing for the Remainder of the School Year

STAAR Cancellation_Coronavirus_FINAL(1)_0.pdf

166.33 KB

Date:	March 18, 2020
Subject:	Cancellation of STAAR Testing for the Remainder of the School Year
Category:	Student Assessment
Next Steps:	Share with Appropriate Staff

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) continues to work with the Office of the Governor, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to coordinate and plan the state's response to COVID-19.

Given the impact of COVID-19, Governor Greg Abbott is using his statutory authority as the governor of Texas under Texas Government Code, §418.016 to suspend annual academic assessment requirements for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year. TEA will work with the United States Department of Education to request waivers from federal testing and accountability requirements for the 2019–2020 school year.

The Texas Assessment Program serves as an invaluable tool to accurately and reliably diagnose how well students have learned their grade-level and course content. Parents use this information to support the academic growth of their children, and educators use the assessment data to adjust how they approach teaching to maximize student learning. While the typical state assessment data will not be available this year due to the cancellation of testing, TEA will continue to support schools by making other tools available to diagnose student learning. More information will be provided as these tools become available.

STAAR Grades 3–8 Assessments

All State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) administrations scheduled for April, May, and June 2020 are cancelled. Student Success Initiative promotion/retention requirements found in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0211 are waived for the 2019–2020 school year. Districts will have local discretion on whether students in grades 5 and 8 should advance to the next grade, just like students in all other grades. In alignment with TEC, §28.021, criteria that should be considered include the following:

- The recommendation of the student's teacher,
- The student's grade in each subject or course, and
- Any other necessary academic information, as determined by the district.

STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

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) are 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.

Districts will need to determine if a student has met all other graduation requirements under TEC, §28.025(c), including successfully completing curriculum requirements or successfully completing an individualized education program.

In waiving the required performance on academic assessments under TEC, §28.025(c) and §39.025(a) for spring 2020, the following applies:

- If a student is on schedule to complete instruction in the entire curriculum in spring 2020 for a course that has a corresponding STAAR EOC assessment, the student is not required to pass that specific test to fulfill graduation requirements.
- If a student is on schedule to complete graduation requirements in spring 2020 but does not have the opportunity to retake a STAAR EOC assessment prior to graduation, the student is not required to pass that specific test to fulfill graduation requirements but will need to complete the IGC process.

For students graduating in future years but taking one of the five courses with a corresponding STAAR EOC assessment this year, those students will not be responsible for meeting that EOC assessment graduation requirement if they earn course credit this year.

STAAR Alternate 2

The STAAR Alternate 2 administration window required under TEC, §39.023(b) and scheduled for March 30 through April 21, 2020 is cancelled. For all students receiving special education services, the admission, review, and dismissal committee will continue to make educational decisions, including decisions related to required performance on academic assessments.

TLPAS and TLPAS Alternate

The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TLPAS) and TLPAS 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 TLPAS domain a student completes. TEA is looking at

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Waiver Request

- TEA has asked USDE to waive the assessment and accountability requirements under the ESEA, as amended by the ESSA for 2019-2020.
- Texas is requesting that for the 2019-2020 school year the following requirements be waived:
 - Federal assessment
 - Accountability
 - Federal Identification of Schools for Improvement

[View the Complete Amendment Request](#)



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Waiver Request



The Honorable Frank T. Brogan
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Brogan:

I am writing to request a waiver, pursuant to section 8401(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, of the following requirements.

State: Texas

Please check all that apply:

- Assessment requirements in section 1111(b)(2): the requirements to administer all required assessments in school year 2019-2020.
- Accountability and school identification requirements in sections 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(2)(C)-(D): the requirements that a State annually meaningfully differentiate all public schools and the requirements to identify schools for comprehensive and targeted support and improvement and additional targeted support and improvement based on data from the 2019-2020 school year.
- Report card provisions related to certain assessments and accountability in section 1111(h) based on data from the 2019-2020 school year, namely:
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) (accountability system description).
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(ii) (assessment results).
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(iii)(I) (other academic indicator results).
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(iv) (English language proficiency assessment results).
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(v) (school quality or student success indicator).
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(vi) (progress toward meeting long-term goal measurements of interim progress).
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(vii) (percentage of students assessed and not a).
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(xi) (number and percentage of students with t. significant cognitive disabilities taking an assessment).

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Waiver Request



- Section 1111(h)(2)(C) with respect to all waived requirements in section 1111(h)(1)(C) as well as 1111(h)(2)(C)(i)-(ii) *(information showing how students in a local educational agency (LEA) and each school, respectively, achieved on the academic assessments compared to students in the State and LEA).*

I am requesting these waivers because it is not possible to administer assessments required under ESEA section 1111(b)(2) or comply with the concomitant accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements as originally planned due to extensive school closures in the State. These closures are in response to extraordinary circumstances for which a national emergency has been duly declared by the President of the United States under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and this action will protect the health and safety of students, staff, and our communities.

In seeking this waiver, I assure that:

- Any school that is identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement or additional targeted support and improvement in the 2019-2020 school year will maintain that identification status in the 2020-2021 school year and continue to receive supports and interventions consistent with the school's support and improvement plan in the 2020-2021 school year.
- The State educational agency will provide the public and all LEAs in the State with notice of and the opportunity to comment on this request (*e.g.*, by posting information regarding the waiver request and the process for commenting, on the State website).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chief State School Officer (or Authorized Representative)

Digital Signature

Mike Morath Digitally signed by Mike Morath
Date: 2020.03.24 09:17:06 -05'00'

OR

Typed Name and Date

Mike Morath - 3/24/2020

By typing my name here, I am affirming submission of this waiver on behalf of t

Comments on this proposed amendment

- TEA is accepting comments on this proposed amendment
- Comment due by Tuesday, March 31, 2020
- By electronic mail to:
performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov



TEA COVID-19 Support and Guidance

- <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>





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