



There are a variety of resources available to assist parents and students preparing for the TAKS test. Individual campuses may be contacted regarding special programs provided by the campus and district to assist students. The school teacher or counselor is the best point to start with regarding the options available within the district.

The state also provides some valuable resources on its website.

The state provides a special website listing resources for students and parents. This website can be found at the following link: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3324&menu_id=793

The main topics covered on this site are:

- About Testing
- Study Aids
- Promotion / Retention
- Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
- Special Education Assessments
- English Language Learner Assessments
- End-of-Course Assessments
- Test Results

To better understand the history and requirements of both the state and federal government, you should review the following website:

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3318&menu_id=793 . Here you will learn about current state and federal requirements as well as the different assessment options available. To help prepare for the current test or to better understand areas of weakness, the state provides study guides. These 'Study Guides' are available in both an online interactive version and a printable version. The guides can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=60&menu_id=793. The company contracted to develop and administer the assessment program, Pearson, also provides some resources on its website at the following location: <http://www.texasassessment.com>

The state announced a new assessment program in January 2010.

“STAAR will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKs), which is the criterion-reference assessment program that has been in place since 2003. The STAAR name, pronounced the same as “star”, will be used for the 12 end-of-course assessments mandated by SB 1031 in 2007 and the new grade 3-8 assessments mandated by HB 3 in the 2009 legislative session. The new tests will be used beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. Students in the graduating Class

of 2015 will be the first students who must meet the end-of-course testing requirements, as well as pass their classes, in order to earn a diploma. The new tests will be significantly more rigorous than previous tests and will measure a child's performance, as well as academic growth."

TEA "STAAR" resource websites: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>

Commercial study materials are also available from local or web-based bookstores and publishing firms such as Amazon, Borders, and Barnes and Noble. If you access the search feature available with your internet browser and type in one of the following search parameters you should be presented with other commercial options: TAKS prep; TAKS Preparation; TAKS practice; TAKS Workbook; TAKS software; TAKS Math; TAKS Science; TAKS Reading; TAKS Social Studies; Free TAKS Prep