



**1. Is TAKS testing being eliminated in Texas public schools?**

The 2010-2011 academic year is the last year that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will use the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test for all students in grades 3-11. The 2011-2012 academic year begins a transition period to a new system of testing and evaluating students in Texas. During this transition, some TAKS testing remain in force until TEA completes the transition to the new system.

**2. What is the new assessment system that TEA is implementing?**

The next generation of student testing in Texas is called the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). The STARR name, which is pronounced the same as the word “star,” will be used for the new assessments in grades 3-8 mandated by HB 3 in 2009 and the twelve (12) end-of-course (EOC ) assessments in high school mandated by the Texas legislature in SB 2031 in 2007. The biggest changes in the STAAR tests are in the area of the high-school EOC tests.

**3. When is STAAR set to go into effect?**

As indicated above, the transition to STAAR begins in the 2011-2012 academic year. Students in grades 3-8 will take the STAAR version of tests in any subjects in which they are tested. For students in high school, only those students who are first-time freshmen in 2011-2012 will take the STAAR EOC tests. Those students in high school in 2010-2011 taking TAKS tests will continue to take TAKS tests through their graduation.

**4. Under STAAR, what tests do students in grades 3-8 take each year?**

Grades 3-8	High School			
	Math	English	Science	Soc. Studies
Reading—Gr. 3 - 8	Algebra I	English I	Biology	World Geo.
Math—Gr. 3 - 8	Geometry	English II	Chemistry	World History
Writing—Gr. 4 - 7	Algebra II	English III	Physics	U.S. History
Science—Gr. 5 & 8		(2-day tests)		
Soc. Studies—Gr. 8				

**5. For grades 3-8, in what ways do STAAR tests differ from TAKS test?**

The STAAR tests for grades 3-8 are significantly more rigorous than the TAKS tests. The tests are designed to measure not only a student’s academic achievement but also a student’s academic growth with particular emphasis placed on assessing a student’s progress with respect to college and career readiness.

The tests in reading and mathematics are linked from grade to grade to performance expectations that a student must demonstrate on the English III and Algebra II EOC test in high school. The tests in science focus more on content that better prepares students for high-school biology, chemistry and physics courses. The tests in writing require students to write both a first-person essay and an expository piece.

**6. What are the STAAR EOC tests for high-school students?**

STAAR EOC tests in high-school cover four disciplines: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Each discipline contains three (3) tests: English Language Arts – English I, English II and English III; Mathematics – Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; Science – Biology, Chemistry, and Physics; and Social Studies – World Geography, World History, and U.S. History.

**7. When do students take each STAAR EOC test?**

In a normal progression through high school, TAKS tests are given to students based on what year they were in (freshman, sophomore, or junior). Students take each STAAR EOC test when they complete the course that the test covers.

**8. In what ways do STAAR EOC tests differ from high-school TAKS tests?**

TAKS tests in high-school cover multiple subjects. Each STAAR EOC tests focuses on content in a specific course. Each STAAR EOC test in English Language Arts includes both a writing component and a reading component. The STAAR EOC tests are more rigorous than the TAKS high-school tests. They also place a greater emphasis on assessing a student’s college- and career readiness in the tested subject. Finally, TEA mandates STAAR EOC test scores count for 15% of the course grade in the tested subject.

**9. What STAAR EOC tests must a student pass to graduate from high school?**

Beginning in 2011-2012, the ninth grade high-school students taking either the Recommended or Advanced curriculum will be required to take all twelve (12) STAAR EOC tests. TEA has established requirements for graduation under either curricula, and these

requirements, described below, are somewhat involved for STAAR EOC tests. Please read the following material carefully.

For each STAAR EOC, TEA sets a *minimum* score, which a student must achieve if the test is to be counted. For each EOC test, TEA also sets a *pass score* and a *commended performance score*.

To graduate, a student ideally should obtain a pass score or higher in each of the three (3) tests in each of the four (4) disciplines. However, TEA makes allowances for a student to graduate even if not making a pass score on all three (3) tests in a given discipline. If a student makes at least the minimum score in each of the three (3) subject tests in a given discipline and if the sum of the student's scores in the three subject tests is greater than or equal to the sum of the pass rates for those three (3) tests, TEA will consider the student to have fulfilled the test requirements for that discipline.

**10. Has TEA finalized all aspects of the STAAR testing and evaluation system?**

As of the publication date of this FAQ, TEA is still developing policies and regulations with respect to STAAR. Some areas where final decisions remain include, but are not limited to, what special education modifications will entail, the scores needed to pass a STAAR test, how retesting will be handled, and what policy decisions will be left to individual districts.

An overview presentation from TEA about the new STAAR assessments can be found by clicking [here](#).

Additional Information about STAAR EOC assessments can be found by clicking [here](#).