

State Summative Assessment Redesign Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Updated August 30, 2022

The state summative assessment is one of many tools that provide educators and families helpful information to support strong teaching and guide students to their full potential.

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) is a summative assessment program that serves several primary purposes, including determining student mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill (TEKS), determining effectiveness of curriculum and instructional programs, helping to determine which individual students should receive additional holistic supports, and serving as a bar for rigor and standards alignment in planning. State and Federal laws require a redesign of Texas's state summative assessment, STAAR, beginning in the 2022–23 school year, which will ensure STAAR is more aligned with how students are learning in the classroom.

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is to provide Texas local education agencies (LEAs) with information related to the redesign that will be implemented in the 2022–23 school year.

This document includes FAQs on the following topics:

- [State Summative Assessment Redesign Overview](#)
- [Transition to Online Assessments](#)
- [New Question Types](#)
- [Cross-curricular Passages](#)
- [Evidence-based Writing in Reading Language Arts Tests](#)

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- **Evidence-based writing incorporated into reading language arts tests:** Combined reading and writing tests better support the interconnected way these subjects are taught and eliminate stand-alone writing tests for grades 4 and 7.
- **Robust accommodations in online tests:** The online testing platform provides a full suite of robust accommodations for students with specific learning needs.
- **Tests administered online:** Online testing supports all the changes above and provides faster test results to support accelerated learning.

2. **When is the state summative assessment redesign happening?**

As specified in HB 3906

speeds. The grant will also cover the purchase and one-time installation of internal connections necessary to achieve testing requirements.

LEAs can access the [Transition to STAAR Online Assessments Implementation Guide](#) for more next steps and resources to prepare for online testing. Additionally, TEA will send an online testing readiness survey to a targeted list of districts in February to understand which districts need further support preparing for this transition.

6. What are the minimum bandwidth requirements for testing?

LEAs should aim for the recommended minimum network speeds of 500 kilobits per second (Kbps) per concurrent student tester for all online assessment programs. While the required bandwidth for each test will vary, having bandwidth of at least 500 Kbps will ensure that all tests can be successfully administered online. Although this is the recommended minimum bandwidth for online testing, 1 megabit per second (Mbps) per student is the recommended digital learning standard for schools, as determined by technology leaders across the nation (e.g., Consortium for School Networking [CoSN], State Education Technology Directors Association [SETDA]).

7. What are the minimum device numbers needed for testing?

TEA recommends a student-to-device ratio of 3:1, but each LEA's device needs will vary depending on their local test schedule plan. Although this is the recommended minimum for online testing, a 1:1 student-to-device ratio is the recommended digital learning standard outlined in the state's [Long Range Plan for Technology 2018–2023](#).

8. What are the minimum device specifications for testing?

A secure browser that meets [minimum system requirements](#) must be installed on each device used for testing. Refer to the [Quick Guide for Setting Up Your Online Testing Technology](#) for more information on setting up the test administrator and student workstations, configuring the network for online testing, and configuring assistive technologies.

9. What calculators will students be able to use when taking the grade 8 math and Algebra I tests online?

There are two calculators embedded in the online testing system; students may choose to use one or both options during the test:

- Texas Instruments (TI) 84 Plus CE
- Desmos

Students can also choose to use a handheld calculator or calculator application that aligns with the [Calculator Policy \(updated October 2021\)](#). In the transition to online testing, the calculator policy will not change from this current calculator policy.

10. What calculators will students be able to use when taking the grade

Calculators are not permitted for students taking the grades 3–7 mathematics assessments or the grade

17. How will each test be organized with the addition of new question types?

Preliminary blueprints for spring 2023, which give basic information about how each test is designed, can be found on the [STAAR redesign webpage](#) on the TEA website.

18. Will every new type of question be on every STAAR test?

No, the new question

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Short constructed response questions require students to write a brief response in their own words. These questions often go beyond simple recall or recognition. They require students to demonstrate critical thinking skills such as analyzing and synthesizing. Scoring will focus on the content included in the response and the evidence used to support it.

Information about scoring of questions with partial credit can be found in the scoring guide for each content area that is posted on the [S.7 \(ef\)2 f -4..00for5 \(u\)-0.3 \(zi\)7.7 \(n\)-0..3 \(t\)-5..3 \(l\)-3. \(i\)-3.b a4 \(\)\]Tjle #MCID 1 z6](#)

