<u>From Deb's Desk</u>

In January, a few team members, vendor staff, and I
took to the roadways and airways for an assessment

<u>SSI Requirements for Students Receiving Special</u>
<u>Education Services</u>

The 85th Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 657, making changes to the SSI requirements for students receiving special education services. If a student receiving special education services fails STAAR the first time he or she takes it, an admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee meeting* must be held before the student is administered STAAR for the second timeuai2niti**e** orom E .2 (iti)0nf85l6yDs 014e- fd

Technology Use Guidelines Presentation

A new resource for districts, Technology Use Guidelines Presentation, has been posted to the TEA Accommodation Resources webpage. This presentation is intended to expand on the Technology Guidelines document posted in fall 2017 and includes clarifications and examples about the use of technology-based accessibility features and designated supports for state assessments.

[More Information](#)

Technology Enhanced Item Pilot

TEA is working to improve the STAAR testing experience for students. One way of doing this is by introducing technology-enhanced items (TEI) that create more engaging content and allow for demonstration of higher order thinking skills. TEA is piloting a few TEI items during the spring 2018 STAAR online administrations for grades 3–8 mathematics and reading. The TEI pilot is only available for students testing online and is optional for the students. The TEI pilot, which will include up to five TEI sample questions, will be displayed after the student completes and submits the STAAR online assessment and will not affect the student's score on STAAR.

[More Information](#)

Enhancements to STAAR Alternate 2

There are several enhancements to STAAR Alternate 2 materials for the 2018 administration.

- Test materials will be shipped in kits. Each kit includes a student booklet, a set of image cards, and a test administrator manual.

- New image cards contain the same images that appear in the student test booklet and may be used in conjunction with the student booklet if the student needs this type of assistance. The image cards must be returned with nonscorable materials.

- Color images have been added to some questions in the student test booklets.

- Large-print student test booklets are now available. The large-print booklets are shipped separately from the kits; however, districts will need to use the test administrator manual and image cards within the kit.

TEA is conducting a post-administration survey to request feedback regarding the effectiveness of these enhancements.

[View the Webpage](#)

STAAR Report Card Reminder

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- The Customer Service Center now offers a chat feature and an online support form. Both features can be accessed at https://tx.pearsonaccessnext.com.

Posted Information

Below is a list of information that has been posted to the Student Assessment website: http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/.

- Texas Assessment Program Frequently Asked Questions
- District and Campus Coordinator Manual (DCCM)
- Calendar of Events
- 2018 ESC Training Presentation
- STAAR Test Administration Manuals
- Oaths of Test Security and Confidentiality
- Student Success Initiative Manual
- Medical Exemptions for STAAR
- Transcribing Student Responses for STAAR
- 2018 Supplement for the Technology-Enhanced Pilot
- Educator Guide to Accessibility within the STAAR Program
- Technology Use Guidelines Presentation
- Accommodation Request Process
- 2018 Online Accommodation Request Submission Deadlines
- Online Accommodation Request Form
- Request for Special Administration of an Online Assessment
- STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual
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