

What is the STAAR Test?



An overview of STAAR and its purpose

VOICE-OVER — What is STAAR, and why do we have it? STAAR, or State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, is a series of tests that help tell us how our children are doing in school.

Just as your children may have a yearly checkup at the doctor to make sure they are healthy and growing, a STAAR test is like an annual check-up of how they are learning and growing at school.

Starting in third grade through the end of middle school, students across Texas take STAAR tests in math and reading at the end of each school year. Some years, they also take STAAR tests in writing, science or social studies — depending on which grade they are in.

When students get to high school, they take STAAR end-of-course tests in English, algebra, biology, and U.S. history to show they are ready for graduation.

You might be wondering what students are tested on. Every question on a STAAR test is connected to the curriculum that teachers teach in the classroom. The curriculum reinforces state standards through the TEKS. You may have heard of TEKS — Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. TEKS let teachers know what should be taught in class. For example, in 3rd grade, students should be able to multiply numbers up to 10×10 . Think of TEKS as little bits of knowledge that students are expected to know by the end of each grade.

STAAR isn't the only way to evaluate student learning, and it isn't meant to tell the whole story. But it is an important measure to look at, along with report card grades, teacher reports, and classwork. When all of these are put together, we can see a more complete picture of your child's true academic progress in school.

The Texas Education Agency knows that as a parent, you play a very important role in helping your children succeed academically. In order to help you do just that, we've made it easy to review your child's STAAR report card. It's designed to give you a deeper look into how your child is performing in different subject areas and where they might need extra support.

To learn more about what's on your child's STAAR report card, go to Texasassessment.gov and log in in the purple box at the top of the page using your child's unique access code found on the front cover of their STAAR report card.

Once you're logged in, you'll have access to even more information about how your child did on the STAAR test. You'll be able to view the real questions from the test, what progress was made from last year to this year, which skills need more practice, and even activities you can do at home to help them improve in the coming year.

Although the STAAR report card doesn't tell the whole story, it is a valuable tool to have as a parent. Because the more you know, the more you can help your child grow academically!

