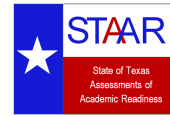


Understanding the STAAR Report Card



A detailed look at what's inside and how to use it

VOICE-OVER — Testing is a part of life and can be good training for the future. As adults, we take tests all the time, to get our driver's license, get into graduate school and sometimes to be promoted at work.

The 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. The goal is to make sure your child is learning what he or she should be and is on-track to graduate from high school ready for college or a career.

Before each STAAR test, teachers make sure students know what to expect: what subjects will be tested, what materials to bring, how much time they have to take the test, and what happens before, during, and after the testing period.

Once your child has completed the STAAR test, there are so many important things you'll learn by looking at his or her STAAR report card. Let's jump in!

On the front cover, you'll see a letter from the Texas Commissioner of Education and an overview of the different proficiency levels that your child may achieve on the STAAR test. Proficiency is the term we use to describe how much information your child knew about the subject tested.

You can learn all about proficiency on page 2. At the top of the page you'll see an overview of how your child did on each exam by looking at the level they received. There are four levels:

Masters grade level means your child showed a strong understanding of the subject material and is well prepared for success in the next grade.

Meets grade level means your child showed a good understanding of the subject material and is ready for the next grade. While there is room for improvement, your child doesn't need a lot of extra help in this subject.

Approaches grade level means your child showed some knowledge of the material but doesn't show an understanding of some of the most important parts. This is still passing, but it's likely your child will need extra help in the next grade.

Did not meet grade level means your child doesn't have enough understanding of the material and did not meet the grade level learning goals. This is not a passing score and your child will need significant learning help and support in the coming year.

Below the main overview at the top is more detail about your child's results for each test. You'll see a bar graph showing the score ranges (far left being the lowest and far right being the highest), your child's exact score and where they fall along the score range. You'll also notice that the four sections of the bar graph match the four proficiency levels that can be achieved. To the right you'll see your child's percentile score comparing their performance to other grade 8 students across Texas.



Transcript

If your child is in high school, page 3 will continue to talk about proficiency. If your child is in elementary or middle school, the page is all about growth. When we say growth, we are referring to the progress your child is making from year to year and how much they have improved across grades.

The first type of growth you'll see is how your child did on STAAR reading and math this year compared to last year. Much like proficiency, your child's growth is also shown in levels and there are three possibilities:

Accelerated growth (more than expected), **Expected** amount of growth, **Limited** growth (less than expected).

Your child is given a growth level based on the difference between their current score and the score from the previous year. Keep in mind that if your child has the same proficiency level for two years in a row, let's say masters grade level last year and masters grade level again this year, the growth may not look high but your child is still doing very well. On the other hand, if your child improves from "did not meet" grade level to "approaches" grade level, he or she may have high growth but still has areas that need improvement.

Below is more information that shows lexile growth. This measures your child's reading level and tells you the difficulty of the material your child can read and understand. The bookcart has sample books for your child's grade level. The chart to the right shows lexile history. The green blocks show the growth expected in each grade level and the black dot next to the number shows your child's lexile score. You can check back after each STAAR reading test to track your child's reading growth over time.

And finally, the back cover includes resources to help your child succeed in school, including activities to do at home and questions to ask your child's teacher in a parent-teacher conference.

For students who qualify, there are special tools, features and supports called accommodations to assist in taking the STAAR test. To learn more about accommodations and if they affect your child, visit [TEA dot Texas dot gov slash accommodations](http://TEA.texas.gov/accommodations).

Now that you know your way around the STAAR report card, it's time to learn more about what you can do to improve your child's score! Go to Texas assessment dot com and login in the purple box at the top of the page by typing in your child's unique ID code found at the bottom of the STAAR report card.

The more you take part in your child's education, the more you can help your child grow academically!