

STAAR FAQ's

(Questions derived from STAAR presentation for parents)

[Link to presentation](#)

- Q My child took Alg I in the 8th grade but is now in 9th. Will they still take the EOC for Alg I even though they are not in that class this year?
- A If the student took an EOC course in the 8th grade, they will not be required to take that EOC while in high school; although, they may take that EOC if they wish. If they do not choose to take the EOC, only two tests (Geometry and Alg II) will be averaged toward their cumulative score in math instead of three. In this case, each test would carry more weight as opposed to having three tests to absorb highs and lows. If they choose to take the Alg I exam, they may take it any time before they graduate.
- Q Does the student have to go to Summer EOC Prep if they fail an EOC?
- A The state requires schools to offer re-teaching to any student who fails an EOC. If a student fails an EOC in NEISD, they will automatically be enrolled in the summer program, although the decision will ultimately be up to the parent. The current proposed program will last 14 days starting the first week after EOC results are mailed home in June. The state does not require a student to take a remediation type course to retake an exam. There will be three administrations per year for retakes. One in the fall, spring, and summer.
- Q If an exam is damaged, will the student have to retake the exam?
- A For test-security purposes, the state will treat the STAAR tests the same as the TKAS tests. Anything that can compromise the validity of the exam will require a re-test. Our staff are trained each year to minimize any chance of compromising a test.
- Q Why change from TAKS to STAAR? What was wrong with TAKS?
- A From T.E.A.: The Texas Education Agency (TEA), in collaboration with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Texas educators, is developing a new assessment system in response to requirements set forth by the 80th and 81st Texas legislatures. This new system will focus on increasing postsecondary readiness of graduating high school students and helping to ensure that Texas students are competitive with other students both nationally and internationally.
-
- Q Will my 8th grade student need to pass the Alg I EOC this year to get their high school Alg I credit for next year?
- A No. No EOC will be required for a student taking the EOC tested course in middle school to graduate from high school. If the student passes the course, they will earn their Alg I high school credit. Although they may wish to take the EOC exam in high school (see question above)
-

Q Will a student be required to take more than one EOC on the same day?

A No. Each subject's EOC will be given on different days. The District is creating a schedule of testing days to avoid conflicts.

Q What is going to happen if an overwhelming number of students fail the EOC?

A Although it is difficult to predict, since we have not seen the test or the passing criteria, Reagan has been working hard all year to prepare and evaluate, according to what the District believes the STAAR will be like. Through STAAR adapted benchmarks, lessons, and tests, we believe Reagan is as ready as any school in the state to succeed on the EOCs. NEISD is also preparing for summer EOC remediation at every campus to accommodate large numbers if needed.

Q If a student needs to retake the EOC in July, will parents be notified in time to re-take the whole course?

A Yes. The district is currently designing their summer-prep courses to align with notification times and EOC retest dates. T.E.A will release scores on Friday, June 8th. NEISD will mail report cards within 24 hours and the current proposal for summer remediation is for it to start on June 13th and go until the July 9th retesting date.

Q Are Home-School students required to take the STAAR?

A No. Passing the STAAR EOC's is required to receive a diploma from a Texas public school.

Q Will the 4-hour time limit apply to special education students as well?

A There will still be accommodations allowed as determined by the ARD committee. The following link from TEA is a good resource:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/accommodations/staar-telpas/#triangle>

Q If a student, who is on the Distinguished Plan, does not meet the advanced-score requirement for ALG II and English III, does the student graduate?

A If the student only meets the Standard score on those EOC's, the student will graduate under the Recommended Plan.

Q Are all states standardizing on STAAR so there is fairness in admission to colleges?

A Texas does not go by national standards. The STAAR is strictly a state based assessment and Texas uses those assessments for college admission. Universities outside of Texas do not have to use the STAAR as an admission requirement.

Q How is NEISD preparing children for STAAR?

A NEISD has taken a proactive approach and began training teachers last year on the differences in curriculum and strategies. The classroom assignments and tests have been modified to meet the demands of STAAR. The district has also developed STAAR like benchmarks to assess the students' readiness. From this information,

we have been identifying and working with struggling students. So far, Reagan has been at the top of the pack compared to other schools.

Q How are the questions different than previous tests?

A There will be more rigorous items, increased number of items, greater emphasis on critical analysis, and more difficult testing methods, such as open-ended questions and additional compositions.

Q Will STAAR tutoring be offered?

A Yes. Right now, all 9th grade tutoring is STAAR related.