

A Family's Checklist for STAAR™

- Familiarize yourself with the assessed curriculum, listed by grade level and subject at www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/
- Make the most of the curriculum resources and/or events that may be offered by your student's school
- Know the STAAR testing dates for your student's grade level, available at www.neisd.net/test/General_Info.html
- Help your student get a good night's sleep before the test
- Make sure your student eats a healthy breakfast on the testing day
- Reassure your student that he/she can be successful on STAAR
- View your student's test results and history through the Student Portal for the Texas Assessment Management Systems at www.TexasAssessment.com/Students
- Look ahead to the next grade levels' requirements to better prepare your child for academic success

Types of STAAR™ Assessments

A student may take one or more STAAR assessment based on his/her eligibility.

STAAR: general assessments

STAAR Spanish: for grades 3-5 in same grade and subject assessed by the general STAAR

STAAR L: linguistically accommodated

STAAR Modified: uses a modified format and test design, but covers same content

STAAR Alternate: available for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities

The transition from TAKS to STAAR begins for grades 3–9 in 2011–2012. Today's elementary students are scheduled to graduate high school under the STAAR testing program.

Additional resources available at:

www.neisd.net/staar

www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/

Produced by the Division of Instruction and Technology Services
September 2011 (v. 3)

Source: Texas Education Agency Student Assessment Division

Understanding the Basics of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) for Elementary Students



Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, students in elementary grades 3-5 will take the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™).

STAAR is replacing the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) and will include assessments in the following grades and subjects at the elementary level:

3rd – Mathematics & Reading

4th – Mathematics, Reading & Writing

5th – Mathematics, Reading & Science

The STAAR assessments will be more rigorous than previous state tests in several ways. STAAR will include more test questions; one additional writing composition (grade 4); greater emphasis on critical

analysis rather than literal understanding; a four-hour time limit; and more open-ended questions in math and science.

Student performance on STAAR will be described by one of three categories:

Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance	Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance	Level III: Advanced Academic Performance
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The passing standards for the elementary-level STAAR tests will be set by the Texas Education Agency in October 2012. For the 2011-2012 school year only, there are no Student Success Initiative (SSI) promotion requirements for grade 5. Students will be assessed for promotion to the next grade by other academic information.

Elementary students will take two to four tests in English (reading and writing), mathematics and science depending on their grade level. The table to the left shows the tests and administration dates for the elementary-level STAAR assessments.

Elementary STAAR Testing Calendar 2011–2012*

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Mar. 27, 2012		Writing – Day 1	Math
Mar. 28, 2012		Writing – Day 2	Reading
Apr. 24, 2012	Math	Math	
Apr. 25, 2012	Reading	Reading	
Apr. 26, 2012			Science

*All tests available in English and Spanish

STAAR™ Test Questions

SAMPLE: STAAR Grade 3 Math

Melissa had some money in her purse when she went to the mall with her mother. She spent \$5 on a book. Then her mother gave her \$10. After Melissa spent \$2 on a snack, she had \$23 in her purse. How much money did Melissa have in her purse when she first went to the mall? Mark your answer.

- A. \$26
- B. \$17
- C. \$20
- D. \$6

The correct answer is C

SAMPLE: STAAR Grade 5 Math

There are 319 students who volunteered to work at a craft fair. An equal number of volunteers came from each of 4 grade levels. About how many volunteers came from each grade level?

- A. 100
- B. 80
- C. 325
- D. 40

The correct answer is B