



Frequently Asked Questions

Topic Category	Questions	Responses
General	What requirements exist regarding state assessments?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STAAR, STAAR Alternate 2, and TELPAS are required by state law to be offered by school systems. State law also requires that students take the assessments. (See Texas Education Code (TEC), Sections 39.023 and 39.027.) Additionally, these assessments fulfill federal assessment and accountability requirements as established in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ESEA requires that students be assessed annually in grades 3–8, as well as once in high school, for certain subjects and requires that all English Learners (ELs) be assessed annually in English language proficiency. (See ESEA, Section 1111(b)(2)(B).) Updated federal assessment and accountability guidance released in February 2021 supports TEA’s current approach, including additional flexibility such as extended testing windows. State and Federal Required Tests Fact Sheet
General	What are the required STAAR tests for my child?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required STAAR tests vary by grade level as follows: Math and Reading - Grades 3 -8 Writing - Grades 4 and 7 Science - Grades 5 and 8

		<p>Social Studies - Grade 8 STAAR End-Of-Course (EOC) assessments required for high school graduation - Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, U.S. History</p>
Attendance & Participation	Can my child take the STAAR test at home since he/she is a virtual learner?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. To ensure equity for all students and maintain test security, the Texas Education Agency requires students to be present at a monitored testing session on the child's campus and must be supervised by a trained test administrator.
Health & Safety	If I bring my virtual learner to school to take the STAAR test, what Covid-19 precautions are being taken?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duncanville ISD is committed to providing the safest environment possible for students and staff on our campuses. Some of the safety and care measures in place include: students/parents completing the health screener before coming to campus, staff and students will be required to wear masks, temperatures will be taken upon arrival, hand sanitizer dispensers are located throughout each campus, sanitizing and disinfecting of shared spaces will be ongoing throughout the day.
Attendance & Participation	If I choose not to send my child to school to test, what will happen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although not participating in a STAAR assessment in grades 3-8 does not affect promotion or retention decisions, it does have implications for graduation. Under the current law, high school students are required to perform successfully on End-Of-Course assessments (EOC's) in order to meet graduation requirements. At all other grade levels, students who do not participate in state testing are required to complete accelerated instruction, which may consist of additional tutoring, summer school, and/or intervention programs. The STAAR test assists our teachers in measuring whether a student has the skills needed to be successful next year and provides information about the academic support and interventions students need to achieve their very best.
Test Logistics	How long does a STAAR test take?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The STAAR English I & English II assessments have a five-hour time limit. All other STAAR assessments have a four-hour time limit.
Test Logistics	Can I come pick up my child from school when they are finished STAAR testing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The district has made plans for students to stay at school all day in order to access transportation and meals. The day will count as an in-person learning day. If you would like to come pick up your child when they are finished testing, please contact your child's campus to make individual arrangements.

<p>Accessibility & Accommodations</p>	<p>How can special needs students take the test?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students with special needs, the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee makes the decision for each student based on the child's disability. There are allowable accommodations that can be approved in advance. More information can be found on the Accommodations Resources page on the Texas Education Agency website.
<p>Accessibility & Accommodations</p>	<p>What supports are available for English learners?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Proficiency Assessment Committees (LPAC's) decide what kinds of accommodations make sense for English learners (EL's). STAAR Spanish may be right for students in bilingual programs who are receiving most of their academic instruction in Spanish. Decisions about which students meet the participation requirements are made on a case-by-case basis. More information can be found on the LPAC Resources page on the Texas Education Agency website.
<p>Transportation & Meals</p>	<p>Will bus transportation and meals (breakfast/lunch) be provided for virtual learners who come on campus to test?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. Transportation and meals will be provided for all qualified students. Notify your child's campus of needs when you are contacted with your child's testing schedule.