



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1633 STAFFORDSHIRE ROAD
STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477
O: 281.261.9200 F: 281.261.9249

April 28, 2022

Dear SMSD Parents and Guardians,

As in the past, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requiring all students enrolled in Texas public schools to take the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) in person at the school in which they are enrolled. SMSD is committed to remaining in compliance with all federal and state laws related to state assessments. Data derived from the STAAR will assist our district with ascertaining students' academic progression and regression. Additionally, the data obtained from the STAAR will provide information to evaluate the impact the pandemic has had on student learning.

This testing season will be slightly different than the years before. House Bill (HB) 3261, enacted by the 87th Texas Legislature in 2021, requires all state assessments to be administered online by the 2022–2023 school year. The transition will require nearly all students to be assessed online (with the exceptions of students taking the STAAR Alternate 2 assessment and students who require accommodations that cannot be provided online). SMSD has transitioned to online administration for most of the grade levels for the 2021-22 school year to be better prepared for full implementation in 2022-23.

We want to ensure you have a clear understanding of how omitting the STAAR assessment may impact your student. Under current law, high school students are required to perform successfully on End of Course assessments (EOCs) to meet graduation requirements. In addition, it is beneficial for the student to participate in EOCs at the end of the year in which the course is taught to ensure the greatest degree of content retention and application.

Additionally, for any student who does not take or does not pass STAAR grades 3–8 or EOC assessments, they will be required to attend accelerated instruction. Accelerated instruction entails delivering supplemental instruction (i.e., tutoring) before or after school, or embedded in the school day. Any student who does not meet at least Approaches on any STAAR assessment or does not participate in any STAAR assessments will be required to attend 30 hours of accelerated instruction in that specific content area. Accelerated Instruction will be provided during the summer of 2022 or the 2022-23 school year.

Please see the following schedule for the testing dates that may impact your child.

Test Date	Grade and Subject	Test Format
Stafford Elementary School		
May 10, 2022	3, 4, 5 th Math	Paper*
May 11, 2022	3, 4, 5 th Math	Online
May 11, 2022	3, 4, 5 th Reading	Paper*
May 12, 2022	5 th Science	Paper*
May 17, 2022	3, 4, 5 th Reading	Online
May 19, 2022	5 th Science	Online
Stafford Middle School		
May 4, 2022	Algebra I	Paper*/Online



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1633 STAFFORDSHIRE ROAD
STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477
O: 281.261.9200 F: 281.261.9249

May 5, 2022	8 th Science	Paper*/Online
May 6, 2022	8 th Social Studies	Paper*/Online
May 10, 2022	6, 7, 8 th Math	Paper*/Online
May 11, 2022	6, 7, 8 th Reading	Paper*/Online
Stafford STEM Magnet School		
May 3, 2022	7 th Algebra I	Online
May 4, 2022	8 th Biology	Online
May 5, 2022	8 th Social Studies	Online
May 10, 2022	3, 4, 5, 6 th Math	Online
May 11, 2022	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 th Reading	Online
May 12, 2022	5 th Science	Online
Stafford High School		
May 3, 2022	Algebra I	Paper*/Online
May 4, 2022	Biology	Paper*/Online
May 5, 2022	US History	Paper*/Online

Note: *If your child is testing paper you will be notified by your school.

Your assistance is crucial to your child's performance. On STAAR testing dates, please help your student by keeping the following things in mind:

- **Unclutter the calendar** – Purposefully plan for these important testing dates and avoid scheduling appointments on these days. Students will have four hours for each testing session. Since being overwhelmed can produce anxiety, we suggest that you limit outside activities during STAAR testing week. Find out if there are any major rehearsals, practices, tryouts, etc., and see if there is an opportunity to reschedule.
- **Feed your child well** - Make sure your child comes to school after eating a healthy nutritious breakfast. Students will not be able to focus and think well if they are hungry. Please avoid sugary breakfast items that will make them sleepy after they begin testing. A child who is “coming down” from a giant bowl of sugary cereal or nodding off after a huge pancake breakfast won't perform well, either. Consider feeding your child eggs or another healthy protein paired with some fruit and a hydrating beverage. The school will provide a healthy snack for students on STAAR testing days and you may send a bottle of water to school with your student.
- **The night before the test** - The night before the test, encourage your child to “sign off” from schoolwork and other activities (e.g., video games, use of cell phones etc.) a little bit earlier than usual and do something relaxing before they go to bed. Please make sure they go to bed early to get a full night of rest.
- **Be organized** - Even a well-prepared student can perform less than their best on the STAAR test if they are flustered. So, on test days, we suggest that you lay out clothes and pack bags the night before so that you don't have to rush in the morning. Take a jacket in case the classroom is cool. Set your alarms at least 10-15 minutes earlier than usual. Also set a backup alarm, just in case. Have your child make their bed and tidy up a bit. They may complain if that's not their normal routine, but this will help them feel a sense of control if they are leaving the house with



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1633 STAFFORDSHIRE ROAD
STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477
O: 281.261.9200 F: 281.261.9249

everything in order. Leave the house 10-15 minutes earlier than usual, just in case you run into traffic.

- **Plan a reward** - Ever noticed how the prospect of a looming challenge or a not-so-favorite task is made less stressful when you know something really fun is just around the corner? Your child is probably the same way, so consider planning a post-test dinner at a favorite restaurant, a Friday night sleepover with a friend, or a Saturday treat to celebrate getting through a big exam.
- **Encourage your child to do well on their tests** - Kids take their cues from parents and teachers, even when they don't seem to be listening. If they seem worried, remind them of all of the things they have done to prepare for the test. The idea is to create a "you've got this" frame of mind that will help them approach testing with confidence.

Thank you for your continued support as we prepare for a successful testing season that captures all of the hard work and knowledge gained by our students this year.

Yours in learning,

Dr. Kadir Almus
Chief Academic Officer
Stafford Municipal School District