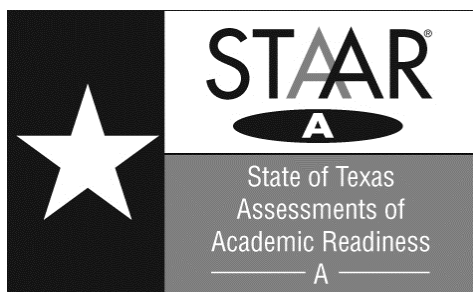


Introduction to STAAR A

A Guide for Parents



What is STAAR A?

STAAR A is an online accommodated version of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®). The passing standards for STAAR A are the same as STAAR assessments. STAAR A provides embedded supports designed to help students with disabilities access the content being assessed. STAAR A will be administered for the first time in spring 2015 and will be available for students with disabilities who meet eligibility requirements.

STAAR A will be administered online and will include tools, accommodations to test selections and questions, and accessibility features. The Online Tools column in the table below shows tools that are provided to all students taking any online assessment. The elements listed in the Accessibility Features and Embedded Accommodations columns are available to all students in administrations of STAAR A.

| Online Tools | Accessibility Features | Embedded Accommodations |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Answer Eliminator | Text-to-Speech | Pop-ups |
| Highlighter | Zoom | Rollovers |
| Eraser | Color and Contrast | Blank Graphic Organizers |
| Pencil | Place Marker | Writing Checklists |
| Notepad | | |
| Dot Tool* | | |
| Line Tool* | | |
| Ruler* | | |
| Calculator(s)* | | |
| Reference Materials | | |

*These tools are subject-specific and only appear in subject tests where they are relevant.

In the Embedded Accommodations column, pop-ups refer to a feature that provides definitions, synonyms, pictures, graphic organizers, formulas, and animations for non-content relevant words and concepts. Rollovers refer to a feature that rewords or clarifies larger portions of text or provides bulleted steps in a process.

Is my child eligible to take STAAR A?

Students receiving the following services may be administered STAAR A in one or more subjects:

- Students with identified disabilities who are receiving special education services
- Students identified with dyslexia or a related disorder (as defined in Texas Education Code §38.003) who are receiving services under Section 504

If a student falls into one of these categories and receives accommodations during classroom instruction similar to those found in STAAR A, the STAAR A Eligibility Requirements document should be reviewed. Additional eligibility criteria found in that document must be met in order for a student to take STAAR A.

Where can I find more information about STAAR A?

Many STAAR A resources are available. Prior to a STAAR A administration, it is recommended that students view student tutorials that contain practice selections and test questions. The tutorials are designed to familiarize students with the accommodations, online tools, and accessibility features that are built into STAAR A. For more information about STAAR A, visit TEA's Student Assessment website or call 512-463-9536.