

**UPDATED: May 7, 2020**

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guidance is to provide Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools with information related to new, state provided, optional end-of-year (EOY) assessments for spring 2020. These assessments are an optional tool schools can use to measure student progress and understanding of the statewide curriculum, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), taught this school year. The EOY assessments have been built using released State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) test questions that measure the TEKS.

The EOY assessments are optional and intended to support district, campus, and classroom-level analysis of student learning. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will not use data from these assessments for any accountability purposes, and no results will be published by district or campus. Data will only be used to research the statewide educational impact of the current crisis to better prepare for the next school year.

Information on the optional EOY assessments and more detail on their uses was discussed in a webinar Tuesday, April 28, 2020. A recording of this webinar is available on the TEA [COVID-19 Student Assessment](#) webpage. Registration and testing windows, as well as contact information, can be found at the end of this document.

In addition, TEA is working on a separate, optional diagnostic tool for use at the beginning of the 2020–2021 school year. The new beginning-of-year (BOY) assessments will be provided in addition to the interim assessments available next school year. More information will be available this summer regarding the optional BOY assessments.

### **GENERAL**

- 1. Since state assessments have been waived this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, are the EOY assessments a new testing requirement for this spring?**

No. The spring and summer STAAR administrations have been cancelled this year, and all accountability tied to STAAR has been waived for the 2019–2020 school year. The EOY assessments are being provided as an optional resource so teachers and parents may have a better understanding of the progress their students have made this year given classroom disruptions and new at-home learning environments.

- 2. What grades/subjects and courses are being provided for the EOY assessments?**

The optional EOY assessments cover the same grades/subjects and courses that are provided for STAAR. They include grades 3–8 mathematics and reading, grades 4 and 7 writing, grades 5 and 8 science, grade 8 social studies, Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History. Spanish versions of EOY assessments are also available for grades 3–5 mathematics and reading, grade 4 writing, and grade 5 science. Writing assessments do not include a writing prompt and are multiple-choice only, and EOY assessments for Algebra II and English III are not offered.

NEW  
05/07/20

### 3. When is the registration window and when will EOY assessments be available?

The registration window opened to districts April 22, 2020 and will remain open until May 29, 2020. The EOY assessments will be available on May 11, 2020, and close on June 12, 2020. See subsequent questions for instructions on district and parent registration.

UPDATED  
05/07/20

### 4. In what format will the EOY assessments be available?

The optional EOY assessments will be available online and in a printable PDF format. Students can access the online tests at home using Pearson's Schoolnet platform. By clicking on a link to Schoolnet, students can access a browser-based version of Pearson's online testing system known as TestNav. This is not a secure application and no installation or plug-ins are required. It is not necessary for districts to access or log into the Schoolnet platform for online testing. Once registered, districts or parents may order PDF versions of the tests from Pearson. The PDF versions of the tests, along with paper answer documents, may be sent to students for testing at home and returned to the district for scoring. In addition, TEA plans to release the EOY assessments in fall 2020.

### 5. Are the EOY assessments the actual spring 2020 STAAR tests that were not administered?

No. The optional EOY assessments are built from previously released STAAR test questions due to current item bank availability and the inability to field-test new items in 2020. Although students may have already seen some released test questions in the past, the EOY assessments are unique test forms that combine items from all years available across hundreds of questions to match the current STAAR blueprint. In this way, the tests are beneficial measures of student understanding.

### 6. Since the TEKS assessed on some of the released STAAR tests have been revised or streamlined from the time of the original administration, will the EOY assessments be aligned to the current TEKS?

Yes. The optional EOY assessments will be aligned to the TEKS in place for the 2019–2020 school year. Each released test question selected for the EOY assessments will be reviewed to ensure the question aligns to and measures an eligible student expectation from the current TEKS.

UPDATED  
05/07/20

### 7. How many test questions are on the EOY assessments?

The optional EOY assessments are designed to mirror the blueprints for the STAAR tests. Each EOY assessment will have the same number and proportion of test questions as its related STAAR test. This includes griddable questions for math and science assessments. The exception to matching the STAAR blueprints is the Reading Language Arts (RLA) tests since the RLA curriculum has been recently revised. The EOY assessments for RLA will be aligned to the RLA TEKS but may be slightly shorter than the corresponding STAAR test. In addition, the EOY assessments will not include writing prompts.

UPDATED  
05/07/20

### 8. How much time do students need to complete the EOY assessments?

The EOY assessments mirror the STAAR tests, so students should need only a few hours to complete each test. These are self-paced assessments than can be completed as students are available. Students will be able to pause and resume testing or log in and log out of testing until they submit the test. Once a student submits a test, the test will no longer be available to complete. As these are optional assessments, districts may want to establish test timing guidelines to fit their needs.

NEW  
05/07/20

### 9. How are EOY assessments different than BOY or interim assessments?

EOY assessments, BOY assessments, and interim assessments are all optional assessments provided by TEA to support districts. Each assessment includes different test questions, but all test questions are aligned to the TEKS and have undergone field testing. In contrast to interim assessments, which are a means of benchmarking progress and are shorter in length, EOY assessments and BOY assessments are of similar length to STAAR, except for RLA. A district may choose to participate in whichever assessment best suits its needs. Participation in one is not required for participation in another.

#### REGISTRATION

UPDATED  
05/07/20

### 10. Will districts need to register or sign-up to use the EOY assessments?

Yes. A district that chooses to provide the optional EOY assessments in any available grade/subject or course must register with Pearson. Districts may register all students and choose later which grades or subjects, if any, to administer. Registration is required for both online and paper testing.

UPDATED  
05/07/20

### 11. How does the district registration process work for the EOY assessments?

The registration process for the optional EOY assessments requires a district to complete two steps. The first is to notify Pearson of a district's choice to participate in the EOY assessments by submitting a [webform](#). The second is to provide a registration data file in the same format used for STAAR. Separate data files for 3–8 and EOC are preferred but not required. Note that the process for loading the data file will be different than the process currently used for other assessment programs like STAAR Alternate 2. Districts will submit their registration data files as an attachment in a Support Request in the PearsonAccess Next training site. This process will allow Pearson to upload the district's data into the EOY assessment testing platform so that student access can be created. District personnel with access to the training site can submit registration information. See the [registration video](#) to learn more.

NEW  
05/07/20

### 12. May a parent or guardian register their child for the EOY assessments?

Yes. TEA will make the optional EOY assessment information available to parents so they may register their children to test. Parent registration for the optional EOY assessments is available May 11 through June 5, 2020. A parent registration form and supporting materials will be posted May 11, 2020. If a parent (instead of a district) registers their child to test, Pearson will work directly with the parent to provide testing credentials and materials. If both the district and the parent register a student for testing, the student's login information will be sent to the district as well as the student's reporting data.

#### ONLINE TESTING

### 13. What accessibility tools will be available for the EOY assessments?

Because these are optional assessments, districts may determine which accessibility tools are most appropriate for their students, whether the students are testing online or on paper. Districts may want to refer to the [Accessibility Features](#) that are available for STAAR. For online testing, most of the accessibility tools (e.g., highlighter, color contrast, and magnifier) that students are used to seeing in an online testing environment will be available in TestNav; however, the tools may look or behave slightly differently for these EOY assessments. A tutorial will be available so that students may familiarize themselves with the online tools and testing environment.

UPDATED  
05/07/20

#### 14. What accommodations will be available for the EOY assessments?

Whether the students are testing online or on paper, districts should determine which accommodations their students routinely and effectively use during classroom instruction and classroom testing. Refer to the [Spring 2020 Accommodation Policy Documents](#) that are available for STAAR. Note that it is not necessary to convene a decision-making meeting (e.g., an ARD or LPAC) to determine accommodations for the EOY assessments. For online testing, text-to-speech is available in both English and Spanish. This designated support will need to be indicated in the district's registration file or during the parent registration. Braille and content and language supports will not be available for the EOY assessments.

NEW  
05/07/20

#### 15. How do students log into an online EOY assessment?

Districts will need to provide each student with the web address for Schoolnet, the student's login credentials, and the test passcodes for each EOY assessment the district is assigning to the student. Each student registered will be assigned a unique login username and password based on his or her student identification number. The student will use his or her username and password to log into Schoolnet for all EOY assessments. Once logged in, the student will enter the passcode for the test he or she is taking.

NEW  
05/07/20

#### 16. Will districts be able to monitor testing participation and completion?

Yes. Districts may, but are not required to, monitor the status of students testing through the Schoolnet platform. A training video on how districts may access Schoolnet to monitor testing participation and completion will be provided by May 11, 2020.

UPDATED  
05/07/20

#### 17. What should students do when they complete an online EOY assessment?

Students testing online submit their test through the testing platform. There is only one form of each available test, so students only have one opportunity to take each test assigned to them. Once a student has submitted a test, it is complete and cannot be retaken.

### PAPER TESTING

UPDATED  
05/07/20

#### 18. Will printing services for the EOY assessments be available?

Yes. After registering, districts may order printed PDF versions of the EOY assessments, answer documents, and answer keys through the PearsonAccess Next training site. Answer documents ordered from Pearson will not be preprinted with student demographic information. Districts will be responsible for paying for paper tests ordered from Pearson, and each student packet (test booklet, answer document, and answer key) will cost \$4.50. Districts may also order printed tests through most regional Education Service Centers (ESCs). Contact Pearson or your regional [ESC](#) for more information regarding printing and shipping EOY assessments. If parents have registered to test and need paper versions of the EOY assessments, PDF versions will be provided.

NEW  
05/07/20

#### 19. What should students do when they complete a paper EOY assessment?

Students testing on paper should send their answer documents back to their district (either hardcopy or electronically) following their local district's guidance. Students' responses for paper tests may be transcribed into the online system or hand scored by the district. Transcribing responses into the online system using the student's login information allows for the student's results to be included in the reporting data files. Students' results do not need to be reported to TEA or Pearson.

## **REPORTING**

UPDATED  
05/07/20

### **20. How quickly can a parent or student see the student's test results for the EOY assessments?**

A student who takes an EOY assessment online will be able to see his or her raw score immediately after submitting the test. Students may log into Schoolnet at any time to review their test results for all EOY assessments taken. Results will show how a student performed overall on the test, how he or she did on each test question, the student expectation the question is aligned to, the correct answer to each question, and the answer the student selected. Note that student results for the EOY assessments will not be available in the Student Portal on the Texas Assessment website. For students who take the EOY assessments on paper, the timing of the test results will vary based on when the test is scored.

UPDATED  
05/07/20

### **21. What types of scores will be available for the EOY assessments?**

In addition to raw scores (the number of questions the student answered correctly) performance levels will be available similar to those used for STAAR. For each EOY assessment, a raw score to scale score conversion table will be created so that STAAR performance levels may be determined.

UPDATED  
05/07/20

### **22. How will districts receive reporting information for students who take the EOY assessments online?**

Districts will have access to reporting data files similar to those used for STAAR. Reporting data files will include student expectation and reporting category information for each item. Data files will be posted each Friday during the testing window starting on May 15, 2020. A district may download the data files into its data processing systems. If a parent registers a student for testing and the district does not, the district will not receive any reports for that student.

### **23. How should districts use the student performance data from the EOY assessments?**

The EOY assessments are optional for district use but may be helpful for district and campus leadership as they are analyzing the degree to which student learning was impacted by the disruption of COVID-19 school closures. Districts may use the student performance data from the optional EOY assessments as one of several data points to evaluate the progress their students have made during the 2019–2020 school year. As these assessments are comprised of previously released STAAR test questions and answers that are publicly available and students will be taking EOY assessments at home under different conditions, the student performance data is not intended to be used for purposes such as accountability, staff performance, or compensation measures.

### **24. How may districts with campuses identified for required improvement through the state accountability system use the EOY assessments?**

District and campus leadership may use the EOY assessment performance data as a baseline data point to drive the development of plans to provide targeted student-level learning supports, as well as campus-level focus areas for improvement. For campuses with identifications requiring improvement, this data analysis will be helpful for informing the actions in their Targeted Improvement Plans (TIPs), ensuring these actions are reflective of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning.

## 25. How may districts with Texas Partnership (Senate Bill 1882) campuses use the EOY assessments?

As the EOY assessments are comprised of previously released STAAR test questions and answers that are publicly available, student performance data is not intended to be used for purposes such as Texas Partnership campus annual evaluations or contract renewal determinations. Since the EOY assessments are optional, districts may not require Texas Partnership campuses to administer the EOY assessments. Texas Partnership campuses may choose to administer the EOY assessments even if the district chooses not to administer the tests.

NEW  
05/07/20

### **REGISTRATION AND TESTING WINDOWS**

District Registration		District Testing Window	
Open	Close	Open	Close
April 22, 2020	May 29, 2020	May 11, 2020	June 12, 2020

Parent/Guardian Registration		Parent/Guardian Testing Window	
Open	Close	Open	Close
May 11, 2020	June 5, 2020	May 11, 2020	June 12, 2020

NEW  
05/07/20

### **RESOURCES**

Please visit the TEA [COVID-19 Student Assessment](#) webpage and Pearson's [Avocet](#) webpage.

For general information and updates, districts and parents should contact the TEA Student Assessment at [studentassessment@tea.texas.gov](mailto:studentassessment@tea.texas.gov) or submit questions through the [Student Assessment Help Desk](#).

For technical support, districts and parents should contact Pearson at 1-800-627-0225 or submit a Pearson Customer Support Form at <https://trng-tx.pearsonaccessnext.com>.