

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>July 9, 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Optional Beginning-of-Year Assessments for 2020-2021</b>
<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<b>Student Assessment</b>
<b>NEXT STEPS:</b>	<b>Please share with district and campus administrators</b>

The purpose of this TAA is to inform superintendents and campus administrators about the optional beginning-of-year assessments.

**Beginning of Year Assessments**

Assessments are a valuable tool to monitor student progress and measure student understanding of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). As a result of COVID-19 and the cancellation of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) for the 2019–2020 school year, optional beginning-of-year (BOY) assessments will be offered to school districts and parents to help indicate student understanding of the TEKS from the previous school year. The data will help educators develop appropriate instructional plans this fall to address any gaps in student learning resulting from the previous school year’s disruption of classroom instruction and from the summer break.

The BOY assessments have been built using released STAAR test questions. While the optional BOY assessments will be administered in early fall 2020, they are, as noted above, designed to diagnose understanding of the TEKS from the previous school year. Therefore, the BOY assessments should be administered to students in grades 4–12, based on their prior year enrolled grade level or course. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will not use data from the BOY assessments for any accountability purposes. Data will only be used to determine the educational impact of the current crisis and to spread best practices.

KEY DATES AND ACTIONS	
July 14, 2020, 9AM-Noon (Central)	Webinar on BOY Optional Assessments <a href="https://zoom.us/j/92067620791">https://zoom.us/j/92067620791</a>
July 20–September 18, 2020	Districts register students
July 27–September 25, 2020	Testing administration window

Parents will have the option to register their students independently, should a district choose not to participate. More information about the parent registration window will available soon.

**Other Assessment Resources for the 2020–2021 School Year**

The BOY assessments are one of many optional assessment resources that will be available to support districts and educators in the 2020–2021 school year.

	DESCRIPTION	TIMING	PURPOSE
<b>Beginning-of-Year (BOY) Assessments</b>	New, optional assessments created in response to COVID-19	Once at the beginning of the school year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gauge where students are in their understanding of the TEKS as they begin the school year</li> </ul>

	and the cancellation of STAAR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure gaps in student learning arising from the COVID-19 disruption to instruction</li> </ul>
<b>STAAR Interim Assessments</b>	Optional interim assessments that mirror the blueprint of the STAAR and are administered on the same platform as STAAR	Once or twice a year: recommended in November and February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor student progress</li> <li>• Predict student performance on the STAAR</li> <li>• Identify students for intervention</li> </ul>
<b>Texas Formative Assessment Resource</b>	New, optional, online tool consisting of a TEKS-aligned item bank, test-builder, and data reports	Frequently throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplement existing teacher formative assessment practices</li> <li>• Support teachers in building and administering classroom quizzes to inform and adjust instruction</li> </ul>

More information will be available shortly on updates to the existing STAAR interim assessments and the new Texas Formative Assessment Resource.

If you have any questions regarding the BOY assessments, please submit your questions via the [Student Assessment HelpDesk](#).

Texas Education Agency  
Student Assessment Division