

## New Statewide Assessments and Your Child

In recent years, the Texas Legislature passed several bills changing the standardized testing requirements for Texas public education students. These new tests will be fully implemented at the elementary and junior high levels in the 2011-12 school year, while high school students will see a phased-in process.

### STAAR™ Testing

Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) replaces the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), which is the criterion-referenced assessment program that has been in place since 2003. STAAR is a more rigorous assessment program that will provide the foundation for a new accountability system for Texas public education. STAAR focuses on readiness for success in subsequent grades or courses, and places a greater emphasis on alignment to college and career readiness.

Both TAKS and STAAR are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the state-mandated curriculum guidelines that establish what every student, from elementary through high school, should know and be able to accomplish.

The new STAAR grade assessments are in the same grades and subjects as TAKS: mathematics in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades; reading in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>; writing in 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>; science in 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>; and social studies in 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Graduates 2015 and Beyond

STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) will be required for students entering the 9th grade in the fall of 2011. Students will take the tests at the end of the spring semester in the following courses: English I, English II, English III, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Physics World Geography, World History and U.S. History.

### Phasing Out TAKS/Phasing In STAAR at the High School Level

|                 | 2010-11 | 2011-12   | 2012-13 | 2013-14   | 2014-15               |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------------------|
| <b>Grade 9</b>  | TAKS    | STAAR-EOC | STAAR-  | STAAR-EOC | STAAR-EOC             |
| <b>Grade 10</b> | TAKS    | TAK5      | STAAR-  | STAAR-EOC | STAAR-EOC             |
| <b>Grade 11</b> | TAKS    | TAKS      | TAKS    | STAAR-EOC | STAAR-EOC             |
| <b>Grade 12</b> | TAKS*   | TAKS*     | TAKS*   | TAKS*     | STAAR-EOC<br>or TAKS* |

\* TAKS will still be administered for students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-11 and are Out of School Re-testers or continuing 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

For more information and resources for STAAR, please visit the TEA STAAR Portal at:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>

Or, the LCISD website at: <http://www.lcisd.org>