

## STAAR STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENTS OF ACADEMIC READINESS

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is the new state assessment program that begins in spring 2012. STAAR will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) that has been in place since 2003 and includes 12 end-of-course (EOC) assessments for students in grades 3 through 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> graders coming into high school for the first time in 2011-2012. Students already in high school prior to 2011-2012 will continue to have TAKS as their graduation requirement.†

### Students will participate in the following STAAR assessments:

- Grade 3:** Reading and Math
- Grade 4:** Reading, Math and Writing
- Grade 5:** Reading, Math and Science
- Grade 6:** Reading and Math
- Grade 7:** Reading, Math\*, and Writing
- Grade 8:** Reading, Math\*, Science, and Social Studies

### End of Course (Starting with incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2011-2012)

	<u>ELA</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Science</u>	<u>Social St.</u>
<b>High School Courses</b>	English I	Algebra I	Biology	W. Geog.
	English II	Geometry	Chemistry	W. Hist.
	English III	Algebra II	Physics	U.S. Hist.

*\* Please Note: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students taking a high school math course (e.g. Algebra I, Geometry) must take the EOC assessment.*

### TRANSITIONING FROM TAKS TO STAAR

STAAR™ assessments will be designed to be more rigorous and challenging than TAKS. **The level of rigor and challenge will be increased by:**

- having more questions per test
- measuring a higher level of thinking in relation to content skills
- having more items where students will have to write in responses rather than selecting a response from those provided
- focusing more deeply on content taught during the current year rather than testing knowledge and skills learned over multiple years
- measuring readiness for college and career success
- four-hour timed tests

†Except students taking TAKS-Alt. These students will be converted to STAAR-Alt.

### STUDENT PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Once students have taken a STAAR assessment they will receive a score indicating their performance. Student performance will fall in to one of the three categories below.

- Level III -- Advanced Academic Performance: Performance in this category indicates that a student is well prepared for the next grade or course.
- Level II -- Satisfactory Academic Performance: Performance in this category indicates that a student is sufficiently prepared for the next grade or course.
- Level I -- Unsatisfactory Academic Performance: Performance in this category indicates that the student is inadequately prepared for the next grade or course.

### IMPACT ON GRADE ADVANCEMENT

Students will take STAAR exams for the first time in the spring of the 2012 school year. The Student Success Initiative requires that students in grades 5 and 8 pass both the reading and math exams to be promoted to the next grade. For one year (2011-2012), this requirement will not apply, since cut scores will not be established until after the start of the 2012 school year. The requirement will return in the 2012-2013 school year. Students in grades 5 and 8 will once again be required to pass STAAR just like TAKS, before being promoted to the next grade level. These students will be given multiple opportunities to retest. High school students will have three opportunities per year (spring, summer, and fall) to take the exams until they meet the passing standards.

### IMPACT ON GRADUATION

Beginning with the incoming 9th grade class in 2011-2012, students will take up to 12 EOC assessments listed previously based on their participation in courses (schools determine the sequence of courses in a subject area). Currently, each student must meet a score requirement for all EOC assessments they take in order to graduate. Further, the score on each test will be worth 15% of the student's final grade. Exact grade calculation will be determined by forthcoming local policy.



*Information adapted from ESC 13.*