



## Assessment and grading guidance from TEA

### I. REQUIRED ANNUAL STAAR TESTING

- The US Department of Education has waived all statewide assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) for the 2019-20 school year.
- All annual academic assessment requirements are waived for the 2019-20 school year. This includes:
  - STAAR Grades 3-8
  - STAAR End of Course (EOC)
  - STAAR Alternate 2

***Students will not be required to make up these tests***

### II. PROMOTION/RETENTION/GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Grades 5 and 8**
  - The Student Success Initiative requirement that students in grades 5 and 8 pass the reading and math STAAR test to be promoted have been waived for the 2019-20 school year.
  - Districts will have local discretion as to whether students in grades 5 and 8 should advance to the next grade. This determination process should be conducted in the same way that promotion decisions for students in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 are handled.
- **Grades 9, 10 and 11**
  - If a student is not graduating and is currently enrolled in an EOC course, the passing requirement will be waived if the student receives credit for the course (this will be determined locally based on student grades and performance through March 12).
  - If a student is not graduating and has an outstanding EOC assessment that they have not passed from a previous year, then they will still need to retake and pass the EOC prior to graduation.
- **Grade 12: EOC**
  - If student has passed all EOC assessments and is not currently enrolled in a class with a corresponding EOC assessment, then that student will graduate if all other graduation requirements have been met.
  - If student has not passed all EOC assessments in previous semesters and is or is not enrolled in a class with a corresponding EOC assessment, then the EOC requirement is waived for the course in which the student is currently enrolled (if applicable), but the student will need to complete the individual graduation

committee (IGC) process for all each of the EOC assessments not passed AND must meet all other graduation requirements in order to graduate.

- If student has passed all EOC assessments and is currently enrolled in a course with a corresponding EOC assessment for the second time due to previously not passing the course, then the EOC requirement is waived for the course in which the student is currently enrolled and that student will graduate if all other graduation requirements have been met.
- If a student has not passed all EOC assessments and is currently enrolled in a course with a corresponding EOC assessment for the second time due to previously not passing the course, then the student will need to complete the IGC process for each of the EOC assessments not passed AND must meet all other graduation requirements in order to graduate.
- For all students receiving special education services, whether or not they take the STAAR Alternate 2, the ARD committee will continue to make educational decisions — including graduation decisions — related to required performance.
- **Grade 12: Miscellaneous requirements**
  - If a graduating senior still needs credit in CPR instruction, the district can request a waiver of the requirement from the Commissioner in order to meet graduation requirement.
  - If a graduating senior was scheduled to meet speech requirements, a district has the authority to confirm that speech skills were demonstrated in the past in order to meet graduation requirement.
  - If a graduating senior was making up credit for missed attendance in a prior school year/semester, then the district can continue to provide the student opportunities through distance learning to make up the missed days.
- **Individual Graduation Committees (IGC) specifics**
  - IGC committee must have: principal or designee, teacher of EOC-associated course; department chair; parent or guardian; advocate as needed; student
  - Committee must develop requirements for a project/portfolio for each EOC assessment not passed prior to spring 2020
  - An initial IGC may not be established after June 10
  - IGC graduation determination must not be made after August 31

### III. **OTHER ASSESSMENTS**

- **TELPAS/TELPAS Alternate**
  - Completion of TELPAS testing is *optional* for districts and there is no requirement to notify TEA
  - For districts who elect to move forward, testing windows have been extended to May 29
  - Districts are encouraged to complete TELPAS for students who are expected to exit
  - TELPAS Reading/Listening & Speaking *cannot* be administered at home
  - TELPAS Writing *can* be collected digitally or via paper-based packets

- TELPAS calibration *cannot* be completed from home, but districts can select centralized rater option
- TELPAS writing collections *can* be rated at home
- **SAT, ACGT, TSIA, AP/IB Programs**
  - SAT/ACT have been suspended until June
  - Texas School Success Initiative is suspended until further notice
  - HB3 CCMR and college prep reimbursements are being expanded to include summer administrations
  - May 2020 IB exams will not be administered
  - AP exams will be modified and administered online
- **FitnessGram Assessment**
  - For 2019-20 school year, the governor has suspended the required assessment of the physical fitness of students (FitnessGram assessment) and the required reporting of results by districts to TEA.

#### IV. **GRADING**

- Each district has the authority to adopt its own grading policy. Options include:
  - Delay the recording
  - Recording fewer grades
  - Implement pass/fail
  - Assignments with feedback but no recorded grades
- Districts must still give written notice to parents of student's performance.
- GPA calculation is a district decision and not required.
- Class rank is a district decision and not required BUT districts must be able to identify juniors and seniors in the top 10% of their class for the purposes of automatic college admission into a Texas IHE.
- For campuses that are "Closed, Instructing" in PEIMS teachers will continue to review student work and should attempt to maintain documentation.