

Updated: November 5, 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 the December 2020 administration of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) end-of-course (EOC) assessments.

Please note that this guidance is ONLY for the December 2020 STAAR EOC administration. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will continue to evaluate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic across the state and provide additional guidance for spring 2021 state assessments closer to the administration dates. In addition, TEA is pursuing options for a waiver of participation as it relates to federal accountability and will continue to seek additional flexibility for the spring 2021 state assessments. More information will be shared once available.

1. Which assessments are available during the December 2020 STAAR administration?

Only the five STAAR EOC assessments required for graduation—Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History—are included in December administrations. These STAAR EOC assessments are administered at the end of the first semester (December), at the end of the second semester (spring), and in the summer (June), giving students three testing opportunities each year. For more information on testing requirements and when students should take a STAAR EOC assessment, please see the [Texas Assessment Program FAQs](#).

2. How can a student who receives remote instruction be administered a STAAR EOC assessment during the December 2020 administration window?

**UPDATED
11/05/20**

To ensure equity for all students, a student must be present at a monitored testing session and must be supervised by a trained test administrator to participate in the Texas assessment program. The December 2020 administration has been extended to a two-week online testing window (December 8–18) to give districts more flexibility in scheduling assessments and more opportunity to test all eligible students. TEA is not able to extend the paper testing window to two weeks because of the time required to ship, process, and score paper testing materials and maintain reporting dates. Districts should continue to follow local and state guidance to ensure proper social distancing and handling of materials.

3. What is a “designated testing site”?

To accommodate testing and follow current health guidelines, districts may set up alternative testing sites other than the home campus (e.g., performing arts centers, recreational centers, hotels, other “learning centers” the district may have already established, or any other location

supervised by a trained test administrator where the district can ensure equitable access and maintain test security). Remember that all test administration guidelines MUST still be followed:

- There must be at least one test administrator for every 30 students.
- Sufficient time to complete the test must be ensured for every student (especially for students receiving extra time accommodations).
- Answer documents should be grouped under the correct *Campus and Group Identification Sheets* to ensure test results are attributed to the home campus.
- Sufficient bandwidth must be ensured for all students who are testing online.

4. Who can be a test administrator for the Texas assessment program?

Any district personnel may serve as a test administrator if they hold valid education credentials (such as a Texas educator certificate or permit), or if they are supervised by a district professional who holds the appropriate credentials. All district and campus personnel who participate in state-mandated testing or handle or have access to secure test materials must be trained in proper testing procedures and have signed an *Oath of Test Security and Confidentiality*.

5. Can a student who is receiving homebound services participate in the December 2020 STAAR administration?

Yes, just as with any other state administration, districts must make an attempt to test students who are receiving homebound services and instruction. If the student is unable to receive sufficient or consistent homebound services due to medical issues (this means that the student is currently receiving homebound services; however, the homebound teacher is unable to provide services for the majority of the documented time due to the medical issues), the student's answer document should be marked "A" for absent, and the district may request a medical exclusion at the end of the testing window.

6. What do I do if my district cannot follow the current TEA one-day administration schedule for STAAR English I or English II and comply with local health guidelines?

A district can request a two-day administration (across two consecutive days) for English I or English II by completing the request webform accessible from this link: [Request Webform](#). Once the request has been processed, districts will receive an email indicating whether the request has been approved or denied or if more information is needed.

7. What do I do if a student who is receiving remote instruction does not participate in the December 2020 STAAR administration?

For any eligible student receiving remote instruction who does not go to the campus or designated testing site to take a STAAR EOC assessment in December 2020, the district should indicate "O" for other in the SCORE CODE field and "0" under column D in the AGENCY USE field.

8. **What do I do if a student is required to quarantine during the testing window before he or she has an opportunity to participate in the December 2020 STAAR administration?**

NEW
11/05/20

For any eligible student (receiving remote or in-person instruction) who is required to quarantine during the testing window before he or she has an opportunity to participate in the December 2020 STAAR administration, the district should indicate “A” for absent in the SCORE CODE field. For these cases, the district has an opportunity to submit a medical exclusion for each student at the end of the testing window.