

September 4, 2015

To the Administrator Addressed:

SUBJECT: Important Changes to the Texas Assessment Program for the 2015–2016  
School Year

The purpose of this communication is to provide information about important changes to the Texas assessment program for the 2015–2016 school year.

CHANGES IN CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR THE TEXAS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

As announced in the communication sent on August 19, 2015, the Texas Education Agency

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LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE STAAR PROGRAM

Senate Bill 149, House Bill 743, and House Bill 2349, which were passed during the 84<sup>th</sup>



Districts that elect to offer either STAAR Algebra II or English III or both assessments must administer the tests to all students in the district who are enrolled in these courses. During the participation collection window, districts will need to provide counts for students that will be taking STAAR Algebra II and English III assessments.

### 2015 RELEASED TESTS

All 2015 STAAR released tests except 3–8 mathematics have been posted on the student assessment website. A partial release of grades 3–8 mathematics questions, including grades 3–5 Spanish, has also been released. A partial release is a subset of test questions that are eligible for the assessment but do not represent the entire test blueprint. This partial release includes test questions that focus on new student expectations and readiness standards.

### 2016 RELEASE TEST PLAN

In August 2016, TEA will release the primary form of all 2016 STAAR general assessments, including braille versions of the assessments, as well as STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, STAAR A, and STAAR Alternate 2. All released tests will be posted on TEA's Student Assessment Division website.

### CHANGES TO TELPAS HOLISTIC RATING TRAINING

TELPAS holistic rating training will include changes for the 2015–2016 school year. Key changes beginning in January 2016 include the following:

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Districts will be notified in the spring of their participation and the processes they need to follow to be compliant with the audit.

If you have questions or need additional information about the 2015–2016 assessment activities, please call TEA's Student Assessment Division at (512) 463-9536.

Assessment Contact Information

Texas Education Agency

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