

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Dictionary Policy

Dictionaries must be available to **all** students taking

- STAAR and STAAR Modified reading assessments at grades 6–8
- STAAR and STAAR Modified writing assessments, including revising and editing, at grade 7
- STAAR and STAAR Modified English I and II assessments

The following types of dictionaries are allowable:

- Standard dictionaries in English
- Dictionary/thesaurus combinations
- Bilingual dictionaries*
- ESL dictionaries*
- Sign language dictionaries

Both paper and electronic dictionaries are permitted. However, electronic dictionaries that provide access to the Internet or have photographic capabilities are **NOT** allowed. For electronic dictionaries that are hand-held devices, test administrators must ensure that any features that allow note taking or uploading of files have been cleared of their contents both before and after the test administration.

While students are working through the assessments in the grades/courses listed above, they must have access to a dictionary. The school may provide dictionaries, or students may bring them from home. The minimum schools need is one dictionary for every five students testing, but the state's recommendation is one for every three students or, optimally, one for each student.

Although thesauruses are not required, they are allowable on all the assessments listed above, either in combination with a dictionary or as a separate resource. If districts make thesauruses available to students during testing, it is recommended that there be one thesaurus for every five students.

Information regarding dictionaries as an accommodation for students with disabilities and English language learners (ELLs) can be found on the Accommodation Resources webpage.

*Bilingual and ESL dictionaries should be provided in accordance with individual student needs based on how much students use them in instruction and classroom testing. While there is no requirement regarding a minimum number of bilingual or ESL dictionaries schools must provide, for ELLs who depend heavily on a dictionary in language arts instruction, it is recommended that there be one dictionary for each student. An ELL or other student may, as needed, use more than one of the above dictionaries.