

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TITLE I, PART A, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM



Stephen F. Austin High School
1700 Dumble
Houston, Texas 77023
713-924-1600

December 19, 2014

TO: Parents of Students Attending Stephen F. Austin High School

SUBJECT: Explanation and Description of Assessments

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires all Title I schools to provide to parents a description and explanation of the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress. Below are various assessments that HISD and its schools use throughout the year. In addition, local assessments that are used at Stephen F. Austin High School to measure student progress are also included at the end of this letter.

In the Spring of 2012, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) replaced the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The STAAR program at grades 3–8 will assess the same subjects and grades that were previously assessed on TAKS. At the high school level, however, grade-specific assessments will be replaced with 5 end-of-course (EOC) assessments: Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, and U.S. History. Students enrolled in grades 11 or 12 and have TAKS as a graduation requirement, will be administered Exit-Level TAKS until the standard has been attained.

STAAR A, an accommodated version of STAAR®, is offered as an online assessment for grades 3 – 8 and high school for students with disabilities and for whom the Admissions, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee has determined to be the most appropriate assessment.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has developed the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness Alternate (STAAR™ Alternate 2) to meet the federal requirements mandated under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), a federal education law reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind law. STAAR Alternate 2 is designed for the purpose of assessing students in grades 3–8 and high school who have significant cognitive disabilities and are receiving special education services.

IOWA is a norm-referenced achievement test that measures students' academic achievement in reading, writing, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Logramos is a norm-referenced achievement test for students whose primary language of instruction is Spanish. It measures students' academic achievement in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

TELPAS is designed to measure the English language proficiency of K–12 English Language Learners in four language domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

To find out more about the STAAR study guides and released tests, visit the Texas Education Agency's Web site at www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the contact person listed at the end of this letter and this information will be provided to you.

In addition to the assessments above, Stephen F. Austin High School also uses the following assessment(s) to measure student progress:

- District-created snapshot assessments, and district level assessments

If you have questions concerning this letter or need paper copies of the material referenced on the Web site, contact the school's Title I Campus Contact Person, Dr. Cocina at 713-924-1600 during school hours, or e-mail ecocina1@houstonisd.org.

Sincerely,

Jorge Arredondo, Ed.D.
Principal