

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE I, PART A PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



Parker Elementary  
10626 Atwell Dr. Houston Texas 77096

Date: December 17, 2019

TO: Parents of Students Attending Parker Elementary

SUBJECT: **Explanation and Description of Assessments**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 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 Parker Elementary 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.

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) assessments will no longer be administered. Students for whom TAKS is a graduation requirement, including former TAAS and TEAMS examinees, may pursue the following options to receive a Texas high school diploma.

1. Request a district decision. An examinee should contact the school district where he or she was last enrolled to request a district decision regarding whether the examinee qualifies to graduate and receive a high school diploma. More details about this option can be found in Senate Bill 463, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017. More information about this option can be found in Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.1027.
2. Achieve satisfactory performance on an alternate assessment. The alternate assessments allowed for TAKS are SAT, ACT, TSI, and STAAR. Former TAKS, TAAS, and TEAMS examinees should take only the appropriate part of the alternate assessment he or she needs to fulfill testing graduation requirements. More information is available in the Texas Administrative Code §101.4003.

3.  
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.

TEA has developed the **TELPAS Alternate (TELPAS Alt)** assessment to meet the federal requirements mandated under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which requires states to administer an alternate English language proficiency (ELP) assessment for English learners (ELs) with the most significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the general ELP assessment, even with allowable accommodations.

**The CogAT** measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which also contribute importantly to school achievement.

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To find out more about the STAAR study guides and released tests, visit the Texas Education Agency's Web site at [www.tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/](http://www.tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/). 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, Parker Elementary also uses the following assessment(s) to measure student progress:

Renaissance 360, Benchmark Running Records, District Level Assessments, Common Formative Assessments, District Snapshots, the Circle Assessment, and the High-Frequency Word Evaluation

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, Bryan Berry at (713)726-3634, or e-mail bberry1@houstonisd.org.

Sincerely,

Chavis T. Mitchell, Principal



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Parker Elementary  
10626 Atwell Dr.  
Houston, TX 77096

DATE: December 17, 2019

TO: Parents of Students Attending Parker Elementary

SUBJECT: **Explanation of HISD Curriculum**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires all Title I schools to provide to parents a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the campus. The State Board of Education adopted the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as the official K-12 curriculum for all Texas schools. The TEKS identifies what students should know and be able to do at every grade level and in every course in the foundation and enrichment subjects as they move successfully through schools. These learning standards will help ensure that all students can meet the following challenges of the 21st Century:

- Each student must become a more effective reader.
- Each student will have to know and apply more complex mathematics.
- Each student needs to develop a stronger understanding of science concepts, especially in biology, chemistry, and physics.
- Each student must master social studies skills and content necessary to be a responsible adult citizen.
- Each student must master a wider range of technology.

To view a description of the TEKS online, visit: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148>.

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. The HISD curriculum, which is based on the TEKS, includes non-negotiable objectives that must be taught at every grade level; however, individual schools are held accountable for innovative, instructional programs and results. Every student will be provided equal access to rigorous instruction and academic programs. HISD recognizes, however, that some students may need extra assistance to obtain high academic achievement, and this assistance is available through the Title I program. HISD will include parents in appropriate decision-making opportunities to support student academic achievement. 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,

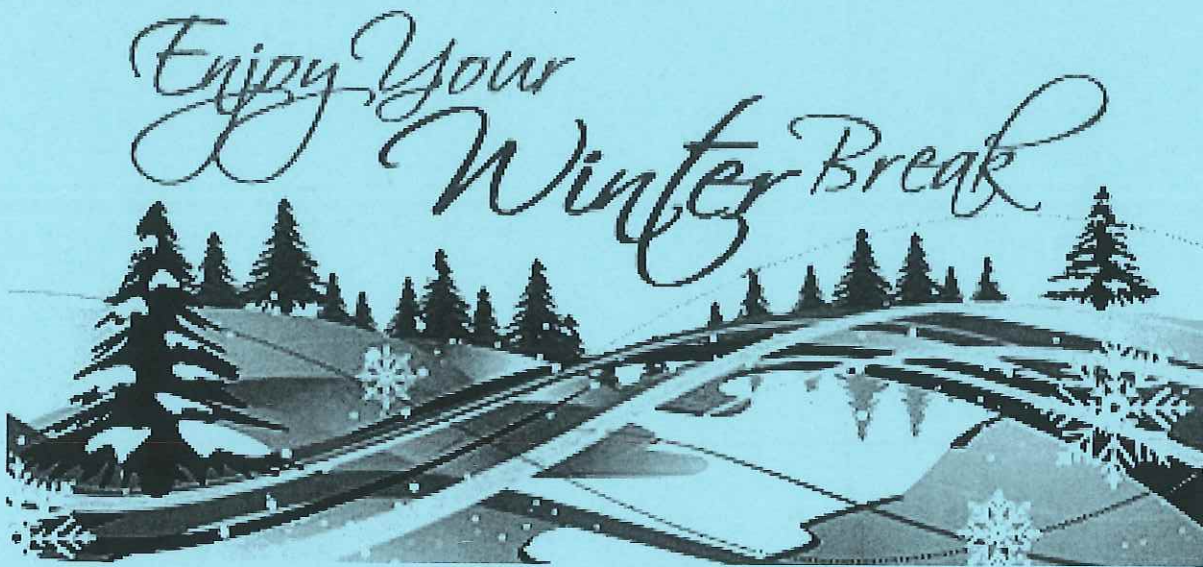
Bryan Berry at (713)726-3634 during school hours, or e-mail bberry1@houstonisd.org.

Sincerely,

Chavis T. Mitchell, Principal

WINTER BREAK IS HERE...WINTER BREAK IS  
HERE...WINTER BREAK IS HERE!!

HISD AND PARKER ELEMENTARY WILL BE  
CLOSED



FRIDAY DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> – FRIDAY JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2020.

(LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS IS THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>)

SCHOOLS RESUMES ON MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2020 FOR  
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.

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