

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: All STAAR/STAAR END OF COURSE (EOC) PARENTS

FROM: DR. LATHAN
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: HISD POSITION RELATED TO STAAR/STAAR EOC ADMINISTRATION 2021

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) requires all campuses to offer the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) for all enrolled students. Logistical constraints prevent administering the STAAR assessments in remote or at-home settings; therefore, students must report to their campus for the STAAR test administrations on the assigned dates. TEA has stated that virtual students can choose not to take the test this year. Below is our position on choosing to take the STAAR/EOC or not to take it.

It is the goal of Houston ISD to ensure that our students are provided with every opportunity to participate in STAAR assessments this Spring in a safe environment in adherence with the District's COVID-19 protocols. TEA has implemented several adjustments that enable districts to provide a safe on-campus test environment, including the flexibility to expand the test administration window from a single day to a window of test administration days while also providing remote instruction during this timeframe to reduce the number of students on campus during testing days through campus waivers.

We want to ensure you have a clear understanding of how omitting the STAAR assessment may impact your student. STAAR data assists our district in identifying student academic progress and evaluates the impact the pandemic has had on student learning. **Additionally, high school students who do not participate in required STAAR EOC assessments may be impacted.** Under current law, high school students are required to perform successfully on End-of-Course assessments (EOCs) to meet graduation requirements. It is academically beneficial for the student to participate in EOCs at the end of the year in which the course is taught to ensure the greatest degree of content retention and application. Although virtual students do have the option to not take the EOC this year, they will still be required to pass the EOC for graduation. This could potentially cause a student that has completed the course work to have a longer period before they take the EOC, which could affect performance due to the time lapse between the course and the exam.

To assist with planning, parents of **remote learners** should have received additional communication, including a survey to indicate their intent related to STAAR testing. All families will soon receive additional details regarding Spring STAAR test administration dates directly from your student's campus. Please reach out to your campus directly if you have questions. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this "Year of Flexibility."