

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**TITLE I, PART A PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**



Frank Black Middle School

1575 Chantilly Ln.

Houston, TX 77018

January 19, 2018

TO: Parents of Students Attending Frank Black Middle School

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 Frank Black Middle 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.

Beginning with the 2017–2018 school year, 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. Additional information should be available in January 2018 when Texas Administrative Code §74 has been amended.
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](#).

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.

**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

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schooling. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which also contribute importantly to school achievement.

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, Frank Black also uses the following assessment(s) to measure student progress:

- Department and teacher created preassessments, formative assessments and summative assessments
- District created interim assessments
- Renaissance 360

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, Michelle Moak at 713-613-2505 during school hours, or e-mail [mgordn3@houstonisd.org](mailto:mgordn3@houstonisd.org).

Sincerely,

Paolo Castagnoli, Principal