

STAAR Testing and Special Populations

STAAR A

STAARA is an online version of the general STAAR test. The online interface contains embedded supports designed to provide students with disabilities access to the test questions.

STAAR L

STAARL is an online version of the general STAAR test. The online interface contains embedded linguistic supports designed to provide ELLs access to the test questions.

Students Served by Special Education

Educational decisions, including decisions related to testing for graduation and SSI requirements, for students served by Special Education are made by the ARD committee. These students may not be exempted from participation in the state tests. However, ARD committees may decide not to hold them to retest requirements.

Students served by Special Education may be eligible to take STAARA. The most severely disabled students in this group may be eligible to take STAAR Alternate 2, an assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities that is based on alternate standards.

Students Served Under Section 504

504 Committees make decisions related to accommodations both during instruction and state assessments for students served under Section 504. These students are subject to the same graduation and SSI testing requirements as are all other students in the general education program. Students served under Section 504 who are also diagnosed with dyslexia may be eligible to participate in STAAR A.

English Language Learners

Decisions regarding instruction and assessment of ELLs are made by the LPAC. In most cases, ELLs are held to the same testing requirements as their non-ELL peers. However, ELLs who meet the criteria for designation as unschooled asylee refugees may be exempted from state assessments in their first year in U.S. schools. All ELLs in grades K–12 are required to be annually assessed with TELPAS to measure their English language proficiency. Recently arrived ELLs may be eligible to take STAAR L.