



Training on Linguistic Accommodations for the STAAR[®] Program

TEA Student Assessment Division

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Topics

- Overview
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR and STAAR L
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR Modified
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR L paper administrations

Linguistic Accommodation Guide

Linguistic Accommodations for ELLs Participating in the STAAR Program

- Linguistic accommodation guide is principal source of linguistic accommodation information for testing personnel
- **Coordinators and test administrators should read and review the contents of this guide carefully**
- Available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/accommodations/>

Allowable Linguistic Accommodations for ELLs

	STAAR (English)	STAAR L	STAAR Modified
Mathematics Science Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilingual dictionary Extra time (same day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilingual dictionary Extra time (same day) (Clarification in English of word meaning and reading aloud of text are provided in the online interface for all students taking STAAR L)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilingual dictionary Extra time (same day) Clarification in English of word meaning Reading aloud of text Oral translation Bilingual glossary
Reading Writing	<p><i>Reading and Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dictionaries of various types* Extra time (same day) <p><i>Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification in English of word meaning in writing prompts 	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dictionaries of various types* Extra time (same day) Reading aloud of eligible text Clarification in English of word meaning Oral translation
English I English II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra time (same day) Clarification in English of word meaning in short answer questions and writing prompts 	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra time (same day) Reading aloud of eligible text Clarification in English of word meaning Oral translation

When providing linguistic accommodations to students, test administrators may not provide any direct or indirect assistance or reinforcement that aids a student in identifying a correct response to the test question.

Linguistic Accommodations for Students Taking STAAR and STAAR L

Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	Reading, Writing, English I, English II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual dictionary • Extra time (same day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 3–5: Dictionaries of various types* • Extra time (same day) • Clarification in English of meaning of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words in writing prompt (applies to all assessments listed above) • words in short-answer reading questions (English I-II only)

***Dictionary access to be provided for all students in grade 6 and up as part of STAAR dictionary policy**

Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR L

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

- Clarification in English of word meaning*
- Reading aloud of text*
- Bilingual dictionary
- Extra time (same day)

***Provided in online interface beginning spring 2013**

STAAR and STAAR L Dictionaries

Dictionaries as a Linguistic Accommodation

- Four categories:
 - **Bilingual dictionary**
 - **English/ESL dictionary**
 - **Non-English monolingual dictionary**
 - **Picture dictionary**

Bilingual Dictionary

Allowable for STAAR and STAAR L (any subject)

- Considered a linguistic accommodation for
 - mathematics, science, social studies (all grades)
 - grades 3–5 reading and grade 4 writing
- Used to translate words (and sometimes common phrases) from one language to another
- May include pictures as long as pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy (and not considered a linguistic accommodation)

English/ESL Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only; not other STAAR subjects; not STAAR L**
- Considered a linguistic accommodation below grade 6
- Unlike bilingual dictionaries, English dictionaries contain definitions of English words
- ESL dictionaries define words using simpler English
- Some dictionaries (e.g., children's dictionaries, ESL dictionaries) include some pictures

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy (and not considered a linguistic accommodation)

Non-English Monolingual Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only**
- Considered a linguistic accommodation in grade 3 and up
- Single-language standard (definition) dictionary in a language other than English (e.g., dictionary of Spanish language; dictionary of Vietnamese language)

Picture Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only**
- Linguistic accommodation in grade 3 and up
- Conveys word meaning through drawings or photos; includes only words that can be pictured
- May be monolingual, bilingual, or multilingual (may show picture plus word in one language or more than one language)

Dictionaries

Allowable and Nonallowable Formats

Within four categories of allowable dictionaries, keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Paper and electronic dictionary formats (including hand-held electronic devices) are permitted
- Electronic devices:
 - must not be Internet-based (it is not sufficient to disable Internet)
 - any features that allow entering and saving text or uploading files must be cleared before and after test administration
 - if device has additional capabilities (e.g. calculator) that cannot be disabled, the test administrator must actively monitor to ensure that these features are not accessed

Dictionaries

Allowable and Nonallowable Formats

- Subject-specific/topic-specific dictionaries (e.g., science dictionaries, academic language dictionaries, etc.) are **not** permitted
- Bilingual, ESL, and standard monolingual dictionaries that contain occasional pictures are acceptable as long as the pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts
- Electronic devices that translate beyond the level of words and set phrases are not considered bilingual dictionaries and are not permitted
- Only dictionaries by reputable dictionary publishing companies should be used (no dictionaries produced by school districts, service centers, etc.)

STAAR and STAAR L Extra Time (Same Day)

Extra Time (Same Day)

- **Allowable for STAAR (any subject or course) and STAAR L**
- Enables ELL to have extra time within regularly scheduled school day to complete assessment
- Does not mean ELL must take all day; means student may have additional time needed within school day
- Not automatically allowed for all ELLs

STAAR

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Writing Prompts

- **Allowable for STAAR writing: grades 4, 7, English I-II**
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words and phrases on writing prompt page
- Before providing clarification, test administrator should ask whether student has looked up word in dictionary; clarification can be provided to students who still need assistance after using dictionary
 - Grade 4 writing: This requirement does not apply if student is not using dictionary as linguistic accommodation

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Writing Prompts

- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures
- Test administrator is **not** permitted to reinforce or emphasize any information on prompt page or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of composition
- Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory

STAAR Example 1: Grade 7 Writing (Expository) Clarification of Word Meaning in Writing Prompt

READ the following quotation.

A famous businessman once said, "Players win games; teams win championships."

THINK carefully about the following statement.

Sometimes you can accomplish good things by yourself but better things with other people.

WRITE an essay explaining whether it is better to work by yourself or with a group.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Short-Answer Reading Questions

- **Allowable for STAAR English I-II reading**
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words/phrases in short-answer questions
- Before providing clarification, test administrator should ask whether student has looked up word in dictionary; clarification can be provided to students who still need assistance after using dictionary
- Clarification is not permitted for
 - **language arts terms**
 - **words/phrases that are part of selection title**
 - **words/phrases that are quoted from selection**

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Short-Answer Reading Questions

- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures
- Test administrator is **not** permitted to reinforce or emphasize any part of information or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of response

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

STAAR Example 2: English I Reading Clarification of Word Meaning in Short-Answer Reading Questions

In this excerpt from *Anne of Green Gables*, do you think the stage directions enhance your understanding of the scene? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from the selection.

STAAR L

Clarification in English of Word Meaning And Reading Aloud of Text

For STAAR L only

- Both clarification in English of word meaning and reading aloud of text are provided for all students in the online interface.

Linguistic Accommodations for Students Taking STAAR Modified

Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR Modified

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	Reading, Writing, English I, English II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification in English of word meaning • Oral translation* • Reading aloud of text • Bilingual dictionary • Bilingual glossary* • Extra time (same day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification in English of word meaning • Oral translation* • Reading aloud of eligible text • Dictionaries of various types (grades 3–5)** • Extra time (same day)

***Unique to STAAR Modified**

****Dictionary access to be provided for all students in grade 6 and up as part of STAAR dictionary policy**

Dictionaries

STAAR Modified

- STAAR policies for the following accommodations also apply to STAAR Modified*:
 - **Bilingual dictionary**
 - **English dictionary (standard or ESL)**
 - **Monolingual dictionary in languages other than English**
 - **Picture dictionary**
 - **Extra time**

*See slides 14-22 for policies concerning these dictionaries.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

STAAR Modified *Test Items*

- **Allowable for all STAAR Modified subjects/courses**
- Per student request, test administrators may provide the same type of clarification as STAAR L (paper administrations) and STAAR with following exceptions:
 - Clarification is allowed on multiple-choice items in reading and writing.
 - **Writing:** Test administrator must be careful not to clarify word meaning in a way that cues answers to items testing spelling, mechanics, and grammar.
 - Example: Test administrator is not permitted to clarify the meaning of tested words in item assessing homonyms.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

STAAR Modified *Test Items*

- Test administrators are not permitted to clarify or otherwise explain content terminology or concepts, or provide any assistance that aids the student in finding a correct answer.
- Test administrators should be trained using the STAAR L example items for paper administrations (slides 52, 53 and 55) as reference for the types of words that are not eligible for clarification. For mathematics, science, social studies no English Clarification Guides (ECGs) will be provided.

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

STAAR Modified *Reading and Writing Selections*

- Per student request, test administrator may clarify meaning of **occasional** words and phrases in STAAR Modified reading and writing selections using simpler English, pictures and/or gestures.
- Test administrator is **not** permitted to clarify meaning of entire sentences or longer portions of text.
- Test administrator must not provide assistance that aids the student in determining correct answers to test questions.

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

STAAR Modified *Reading and Writing Selections*

- **Reading selections:** Test administrator must not clarify the meaning of vocabulary, expressions, or other phrasing specifically assessed in a test question
- **Writing selections:** Test administrator must not clarify meaning in a way that provides cues related to spelling, mechanics, or grammar. For example, if a student requests clarification of the meaning of the misspelled word **sugest** in an editing selection, the test administrator must not comment on the misspelling when clarifying the meaning.

Reading Aloud of Words

STAAR Modified *Test Items*

- **Allowable for all STAAR Modified subjects/courses**
- Enables ELLs to ask test administrator to read aloud words, phrases, or occasional sentences in a test item.
- Provided on student request basis only.
- Includes words in stem, question, answer choices, and any stimuli (e.g., map, diagram, etc.).
- Voice inflection must be kept neutral.
- Numbers, symbols, and abbreviations can be read aloud as long as doing so does not invalidate what item is testing.

Reminder: For grade 3 mathematics, standard test administration procedure allows **all** grade 3 students to receive reading (decoding) assistance on this assessment.

Reading Aloud of Words

STAAR Modified *Test Items*

- Includes test items for reading and writing:
 - **Writing:** Only single words (not phrases or sentences) in multiple-choice questions may be read aloud. Test administrator must be careful not to read aloud words that would aid students in determining answers to test questions.
 - For example, words in answer choices that assess spelling must be pronounced correctly even if there is a difference in pronunciation between the misspelled and correctly spelled word.

NOTE:

- **Oral administrations:** For reasons associated with their particular disabling condition, some students taking STAAR Modified tests may be eligible for an oral administration of test questions (exception: no oral administration of writing test questions). In such a case, TA must be familiar with, and follow, oral administration guidelines.
- **Writing prompts:** Keep in mind that test administrators may read aloud all information on the prompt page if student requests or if documented in IEP.

Reading Aloud of Words

STAAR Modified

Reading and Writing Selections

- **Reading selections:** At request of student, the test administrator may read aloud occasional words or phrases in a reading test selection. Sentences and longer portions of text must **not** be read aloud.
- **Writing selections:** At request of student, test administrator may read aloud occasional **single words**. Reading aloud phrases or longer portions of text is not permitted. Correct pronunciation should be used in reading a misspelled word aloud.

NOTE: Test administrators read aloud the title and prereading text above STAAR Modified reading and writing selections to all STAAR Modified students as part of standard test administration procedures.

Oral Translation

STAAR Modified

- **Allowable for all STAAR Modified subjects/courses**
- At request of a student, test administrator may orally translate a word, term, phrase, or occasional sentence that student does not understand.
- Test administrator is not permitted to define or explain content terminology, concepts, or skills assessed. Test administrator is permitted only to give equivalent word or words in other language.

Oral Translation

STAAR Modified

- Examples:
 - If a Spanish-speaking student requests assistance with the meaning of the word **sodium** in an item, the test administrator may say the equivalent term **sodio**.
 - If the student asks what **row** means in a sentence in which the context refers to rowing a boat, the test administrator may say **remar**.
- In translating, test administrator must not provide assistance that cues correct answers.

Bilingual Glossary *(Word List)*

STAAR Modified

- **Allowable for all STAAR Modified subjects/courses**
- Students may use locally developed or other customized bilingual glossary to find the translation of words they have difficulty understanding in English.
- Glossary must not include definitions, explanations, examples, or pictures that will aid students in understanding content terminology, concepts, or skills assessed.
- Only native-language equivalents are allowed.
- Example: It would be appropriate to translate **square inch** as **pulgada cuadrada** in Spanish in a bilingual glossary. It would not be appropriate to define what a square inch is or to include a picture of a square inch.

Linguistic Accommodations for Students taking STAAR L Paper Administrations

Paper Administrations of STAAR L

Training Test Administrators

- In addition to receiving training on general test administration procedures and test security, test administrators need to be trained in testing procedures specific to STAAR L paper administrations.
- Test administrators who provide clarification of word meaning should be —
 - familiar with the subject matter assessed and linguistic needs of the students, and
 - work routinely with the students in assisting with or delivering instruction.

Paper Administrations of STAAR L

Training Test Administrators

- Use sample ECG instructions page to familiarize test administrators with using an ECG.
- Sample ECG found on STAAR L Resources page at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/staarl/>; also available in STAAR L Supplement for Paper Administrations.
- Remember, ECGs are for test administrator use only and should not be distributed to students.

Paper Administrations of STAAR L

Recording Accommodations

- Test administrators must indicate in the “Linguistic Accommodations” drop-down menu on the Student Test Details screen that a linguistic accommodation, documented by the LPAC, was made available to a student, even if the student did not use the accommodation during testing.

Dictionary and Extra time (same day) STAAR L Paper Administration

- As with online administrations of STAAR L, students testing on paper may be eligible to use a bilingual dictionary and/or extra time.
- See slides #14 and #22 in this PowerPoint for more information on these linguistic accommodations.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

STAAR L Paper Administration

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

- Per student request only, the test administrator may clarify the meaning of eligible words and phrases.
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures when clarifying meaning of eligible words or phrases

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

STAAR L Paper Administration

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

- Test administrator is **not** permitted to define, explain, or illustrate content terminology or concepts assessed
- Secure English Clarification Guide (ECG) provided for test administrators to use with this accommodation
 - Contains instructions and secure list of words in each test item that are not eligible for clarification
 - For test administrator use only; not for students

Reading Aloud of Text

STAAR L Paper Administration

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

- Per student request only, test administrator may read aloud words, phrases, or occasional sentences in a test item
- Includes words in stem, question, answer choices, and any stimuli (e.g., map, diagram, etc.)
- Voice inflection must be kept neutral
- Numbers, symbols, and abbreviations can be read aloud as long as doing so does not invalidate what item is testing
- Voice inflection must be kept neutral
- Numbers, symbols, and abbreviations can be read aloud as long as doing so does not invalidate what item is testing

Reminder: For grade 3 mathematics, standard test administration procedure allows **all** grade 3 students to receive reading (decoding) assistance on this assessment.

STAAR L Paper Administrations Item Examples – Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

STAAR L Paper Administration

Example 1: Grade 5 Mathematics

Reading Aloud

Ramón read $3\frac{7}{8}$ books that were on his reading list. Which of the following improper fractions is equivalent to $3\frac{7}{8}$?

A $\frac{29}{8}$

B $\frac{31}{8}$

C $\frac{24}{8}$

D $\frac{18}{8}$

STAAR L Paper Administration

Example 2: Grade 8 Mathematics

Clarification in English of word meaning

Reading aloud

Last week a certain brand of bottled water cost \$1.25 for a 16-ounce bottle. This week the water is on sale for \$1.00 for a 16-ounce bottle. What is the percent decrease in the price of this bottled water?

- A** 16%
- B** 13%
- C** 20%
- D** 25%

Test Item Number	Words Not Eligible for Clarification	Test Item Number	Words Not Eligible for Clarification
1	percent decrease	27	
2		28	
3		29	

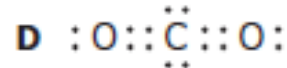
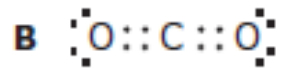
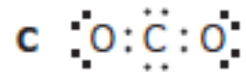
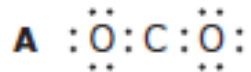
STAAR L Paper Administration

Example 3: Chemistry EOC

Clarification in English of word meaning

Bilingual Dictionary

Carbon dioxide is a compound that forms with the combustion of carbon in the presence of oxygen. Electron-dot formulas are used to model the bonds that form. Which of these is the electron-dot formula for carbon dioxide?



Test Item Number	Words Not Eligible for Clarification	Test Item Number	Words Not Eligible for Clarification
1	carbon dioxide, compound, combustion, carbon, oxygen, electron-dot formula(s), bonds	27	
2		28	
3		29	

STAAR L Paper Administration

Example 4: U.S. History EOC

Reading aloud
Bilingual dictionary



Which of the following does this 1937 political cartoon satirize?

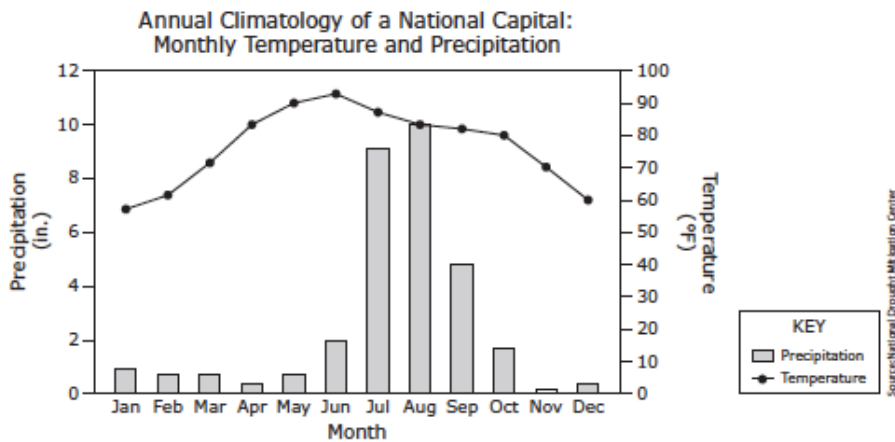
- A Congressional attempts to bypass the principle of separation of powers
- B President Franklin D. Roosevelt's attempt to reorganize the Supreme Court
- C President Franklin D. Roosevelt's refusal to cooperate with state governments
- D Congressional attempts to undermine the principle of state sovereignty

STAAR L Paper Administration

Example 5: World Geography EOC

Clarification in English of word meaning

Reading aloud



Which conclusion is best supported by the climograph?

- A** This city is part of a tropical rain forest.
- B** This city is subject to seasonal monsoons.
- C** This city is located in a high-latitude climate zone.
- D** This city is experiencing severe drought.

Test Item Number	Words Not Eligible for Clarification	Test Item Number	Words Not Eligible for Clarification
1	precipitation, climatology, climograph, tropical rain forest, monsoons, high-latitude climate zone, drought	27	
2		28	
3		29	

For More Information

- This PowerPoint is posted on the Accommodation Resources page of the Student Assessment Division website at www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/accommodations
- If further assistance is needed, contact the TEA Student Assessment Division
 - (512) 463-9536
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