

HB 1244 Implementation

Updated: September 30, 2022

Overview of House Bill 1244

The 86th Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1244 in 2019. This bill requires the U. S. History STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessment to include 10 questions randomly selected from the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as part of the naturalization process. HB 1244 requires that the questions included be aligned to the TEKS for United States History Studies Since 1877. In addition, HB 1244 requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to issue a report annually that provides the questions included in the test and the answers to those questions, and student performance on the questions, both statewide and disaggregated by school district and campus.

Adaptation and Alignment of Questions

The questions that will be added to the civics section of the U. S. History STAAR test have been adapted from those used by USCIS as part of the naturalization process. During the naturalization process, candidates are asked some of the questions during an oral interview. In order to standardize the questions and make them compatible with STAAR and its reporting system, the questions have been converted to a multiple-choice format with four answer options.

HB 1244 requires that the questions included in the U. S. History STAAR test be aligned to the TEKS for United States History Studies Since 1877. Out of the 100 questions on the civics test, 59 questions are aligned to the TEKS, and 37 out of those 59 questions are aligned to a single student expectation. Only those questions that have a direct alignment with the TEKS will be included. TEA has identified USCIS questions that align with the TEKS for United States History Studies Since 1877 in student expectations 1.A, 2.B, 3.C, 4.A, 4.B, 5.A, 5.B, 5.C, 7.A, 7.E, 7.G, 8.A, 8.B, 8.C, 8.F, 9.A, 9.D, 9.I, 15.B, 19.B, 22.A, 22.B, and 22.C. Because some of the questions are open ended, they can be aligned to different student expectations depending on the content of the question.

Implementation

The civics questions will be included as a section within the U. S. History STAAR EOC beginning with the May 2023 administration. To not increase the length of the test, the civics questions will take the place of some of the field test questions normally included as part of the STAAR EOC. Just as the field test questions are randomly assigned to students when they take the test, the civics questions will be randomly assigned to students. All students will take the civics question section, but may encounter different questions. Because not all students will encounter all of the civics questions, individual student data will not be available. Student performance on those questions will be reported at the state-, district-, and campus-level, and will not be part of a student's individual U. S. History STAAR score. Each year, TEA will release the questions asked and the correct responses to those questions. Because the December and June test administrations do not typically include a representative sampling of Texas students, the civics questions will only be included in the main Spring administration and will not be included in the December and June tests.