

September 23, 2020

Subject: Guidance for Tracking Students Who Were Eligible for the 2020 STAAR EOC Assessment COVID-19 Waiver

To the ESC and District Testing Coordinator Addressed:

The purpose of this communication is to provide guidance to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools on how to track students who were eligible for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) end-of-course (EOC) assessment COVID-19 waiver. As announced on [March 16, 2020](#), Governor Greg Abbott used his statutory authority under Texas Government Code, §418.016 to suspend annual academic assessment requirements for the remainder of the 2019–20 school year due to the impact of COVID-19. This suspension waived STAAR EOC assessment graduation requirements for thousands of eligible Texas students. Eligibility requirements are listed below.

- To qualify for the STAAR EOC assessment waiver, a student must have
 - been enrolled in the course during spring or summer 2020,
 - completed the full course by the end of spring or summer 2020, AND
 - earned full course credit by the end of the spring or summer 2020.
- Students who qualify for the STAAR EOC assessment waiver will not be responsible for meeting that EOC assessment graduation requirement. For these students, the waiver reduces the number of EOC assessments the student must pass to meet assessment graduation requirements.
- Students, who did not earn full course credit in spring or summer 2020 and must continue or repeat the course, will be required to pass the corresponding STAAR EOC assessment to meet assessment graduation requirements. The “2020 Waived” code does not apply to these students.
- Students who have a STAAR EOC assessment that they have not passed from a previous year are still required to retake and pass that STAAR EOC assessment to meet graduation requirements. The “2020 Waived” code does not apply to these students.

In an effort to assist districts, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommends districts and charter school refer to student transcripts or academic achievement records (AAR). A new code, 2020 Waived, was added to the STAAR performance level code table (TC31) in the Texas Records Exchange (TREx) system. Districts and charter schools were required to indicate on the transcript or in the AAR the “2020 Waived” code for students for whom the STAAR EOC assessment requirement was waived, in accordance with the assessment guidance issued in spring 2020. District testing coordinators should work closely with their TREx coordinators to access TREx for this information. As TEA does not have the authority to access TREx data or sufficient student records to make accurate determinations, districts need to determine which students were eligible for the 2020 waiver using their own student information systems.

In the case of a student who transfers into a district for school year 2020–21 and does not have the “2020 Waived” code appropriately indicated on the student transcript or AAR, the district can

refer to 2019–20 school year course completion in the student transcript or AAR to identify students who successfully completed curriculum requirements and qualify for the COVID-19 waiver. For additional information, please refer to the Assessment Guidance on the [COVID-19 Assessment webpage](#).

If you have questions about assessment requirements, submit your questions via the [Student Assessment Help Desk](#). For questions about assessment scoring and reporting, contact the Performance Reporting Division at (512) 463-9704 or performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov.

Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division
(512) 463-9536