



TEXAS' CURRENT STATE OF ASSESSMENTS: SUMMATIVE TESTS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE

Accurate and comparable summative assessments in core subjects play a **unique and critical role in enabling decisionmakers** (parents, school leaders, and policymakers) to **evaluate policies and practices** and **stay informed**.

COMPARABLE, VALID & RELIABLE

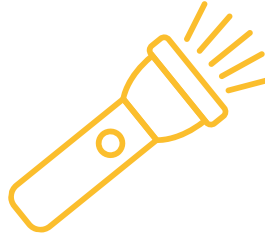
Independent evaluations confirm STAAR as a **valid and reliable test** (HB 743, 84R), aligned with state education standards and inclusive of passages with grade-level readability (HB 3, 86R).

"The test bears a strong association with **on-grade curriculum requirements**"
- HumRRO, 2016

" **91% of passages** met the criterion for readability "
- The Meadows Center, 2019 "

CRITICAL TO INFORMING INSTRUCTION & SUPPORTS

Summative assessments act as a **flashlight to herald bright spots** and identify **opportunities for further support and instructional focus**. Annual academic snapshots help improve educational outcomes over time and **across student groups**.



89%

Texas public school parents in Texas say their child's STAAR test scores are **a source of good information** in learning about their child's progress in school.¹

DID YOU KNOW OUR ASSESSMENTS ARE EVOLVING?

The current exams are changing to address feedback from Texas students, families, and teachers (HB 3906, 86R):

- **The STAAR Redesign** will align more closely with students' classroom learning experiences. In 2023, STAAR administration will be fully online and include new question types, cross-curricular passages, and evidence-based writing components.²
- **The Texas Through-Year Assessment Pilot (TTAP)** is exploring replacing the STAAR with multiple opportunities (shorter, adaptive tests administered throughout the year) for students to demonstrate mastery and contribute to their summative performance score.

Texas is leading the way in developing an innovative summative test that reflects high-quality learning experiences.

1: Charles Butt Foundation Poll, 2022.
2: TEA Materials



TEXAS' CURRENT STATE OF ASSESSMENTS: SETTING THE RECORD STRAGHT



Texas Schools are NOT funded based on STAAR

STAAR scores and school accountability ratings have no bearing on the allocation of funding provided in the Texas school finance system. The only exception is for continually underperforming schools that can receive additional resources and support.



STAAR results are LOW-STAKES for students

Test results in Grades 3-8 do not impact course grades or promotion to the next grade-level (HB 4545, 87R). Students can also satisfy alternative graduation requirements without passing STAAR End of Course exams as determined by an Individual Graduation Committee (HB 999, 87R).



STAAR scores do NOT dictate teacher pay

Texas school systems have historically utilized a teacher salary scale based on tenure and not on student performance. Although the Teacher Incentive Allotment (HB 3, 86R) allows districts to opt in to rewarding their most effective teachers, currently 92% of school systems use measures other than STAAR or a combination of multiple instruments to measure student growth.³



Teachers do NOT have to "teach to the test" for their students to succeed

Effective educators are not "teaching to the test." Strong instruction based on pedagogical best practices—not "drill and kill"—leads to strong student learning as reflected in STAAR scores.

BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Summative assessments are **necessary** to measure academic progress and **Texas voters support** their use to compare progress across the state.⁴ Current assessments work, accurately providing this information and evolving to better meet our state's needs. **Texas must prioritize the continuation of our state's system of summative annual assessments and piloting innovative assessment design.**



3: TEA Materials

4: According to the Texas 2036 Voter Poll, 87% of Texans are in favor of using apples-to-apples comparisons on an annual test in reading and math to know how the schools in their community are performing relative to others in the state.

