

## Texas STAAR End Of Course (EOC)

Starting with 2011-2012 School Year the Texas Education Agency has transitioned from TAKS to STAAR EOC for students in grades 3-9. Part of the new assessment system requires first time 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 8<sup>th</sup> graders taking high school courses (Math, Reading, Writing, Science and Social Studies) for credit to pass the End of Course Exams in order to graduate. This document is intended to provide clarification on the implications and requirements of this new standard.

### What is STAAR?

STAAR is a more rigorous standardized testing program that will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) for elementary, middle, and high school students. The new STAAR program will emphasize “readiness” standards, which are the knowledge and skills that are considered most important for success in the grade or subject that follows and for college and career.

### What tests must you take in high school?

With the new STAAR program, the TAKS exit-level tests will be replaced with 12 end-of-course (EOC) assessments, which students will take as they complete the corresponding course.

The 12 EOC assessments are:

- English I, English II, English III
- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- World Geography, World History, and U.S. History

If a student is enrolled in grade 8 or below and is taking a course for which there is a STAAR EOC assessment, that student will be required to take the applicable STAAR EOC test. For example, an eighth grade student enrolled in Algebra I will take the STAAR Algebra I EOC, as well as the grade 8 reading, science, and social studies assessments.

### How is STAAR different from TAKS?

The new end-of-course assessments will only assess the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for a given course, unlike the high school TAKS tests that cover material from multiple courses.

The questions on the new STAAR will be deeper and more complex than TAKS.

- In reading, greater emphasis will be given to critical analysis rather than to literal understanding.
- In writing, students will be required to write two essays instead of one, and the English EOC assessments will be administered over two days.
- In science and math, the number of open-ended (griddable) questions will increase to allow students to derive an answer independently.

In addition, a student’s score on the STAAR EOC assessment will count 15 percent towards the student’s final grade in that course. Also, for the first time since the state began its standardized testing program, there will be a four-hour time limit to complete the test.

### What do you need to graduate?

To graduate, a student must have a yet-to-be-determined cumulative score on all of the EOC assessments taken in each content area: English, math, science, and social studies. Besides meeting the cumulative score requirement in each of four core content areas, students on the Recommended High School Program, which is the standard graduation plan, must pass the Algebra II and English III EOC assessments.

The STAAR graduation requirements apply to students first entering the ninth grade in fall 2011 (Class of 2015). All other current high school students will graduate on the TAKS program.

### What happens if you pass the course but fail the test?

If a student passes the course, but does not earn the required minimum score on the EOC assessment, the student may retake the test. The student is not required to retake a course as a condition of retaking the test for that course.

The school is required to provide additional instruction to each student who fails to perform satisfactorily on any EOC assessment.

### EPISD Student Report Cards

Student report cards will have an “EOC” notation under the credit earned column which indicates the credit is pending, as required by state law. A student’s score on the initial End of Course (EOC) assessment must count for 15 percent of the final grade for the course. EOC will be administered in the spring semester and results will not be available from the state until the end of the school year. Credit will be awarded at the end of the spring semester and reflected on your child’s final report card.

### EPISD Policy

- A student may retake on any End Of Course (EOC) to improve their course average but it will NOT affect their GPA and /or class ranking.
- A benefit of a student retesting on the End of Course (EOC) test will improve the possibility of a score being ranked at the Career and College Readiness level which is required for a student to be a Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) Graduate.
- Students who fail the course and pass the EOC may be awarded credit if the EOC score raises the course average to 70 or above. If the EOC score does not raise the course average to 70 or above the student must repeat the course.
- If a student passes the class before the End of Course (EOC) score is calculated and fails the EOC, the student must retake the EOC and the retake score can be used to recalculate a course grade for credit.

### Class Rank/GPA

- *Only the first EOC score will count for Grade Point Average (GPA) and class ranking.*
- *EOC retake scores will not be used to calculate GPA and class ranking.*

For additional information please refer to the following site:

<http://www.episd.org>

### Reference EPISD Policies:

EIE (Local) - Academic Achievement  
Retention and Promotion

EIA (Local) - Academic Achievement  
Grading/Progress Reports to  
Parents

EIC (Local) - Academic Achievement  
Class Ranking

For additional information, contact:

Contact your child’s school

Or

Texas Education Agency  
Student Assessment Division  
512/463-9536

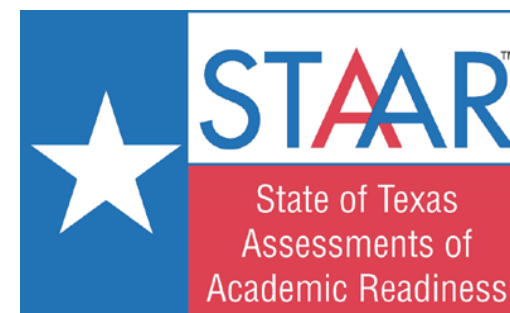
[student.assessment@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:student.assessment@tea.state.tx.us)



## A Quick Reference to the High School Testing Program For the Class of 2015 and Beyond

### STAAR End of Course (EOC)

2011—2012



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