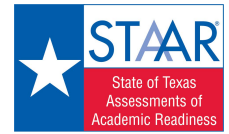


Accommodations for Testing



An overview of STAAR Accessibility Features and Designated Supports



The STAAR test is designed so that all children can show the grade-level skills and knowledge they have learned during the school year. For some children the test offers accommodations, which are features and supports that are designed to allow students to show their knowledge of the content being tested, despite facing barriers that other students do not have to face. The accommodations made available on the STAAR test are similar to those commonly used in the classroom throughout the school year. It is important for the student to have used the accommodation often enough that he or she is comfortable using it on the day of the STAAR test. There are three categories of accommodations that can be used during testing.

1 Accessibility Features

Accessibility features are testing procedures and materials that may be available to individual students who routinely use them and benefit from them during instruction. Some examples of these features include language supports (signing and translating test directions) and the use of assistive technology (color settings, zoom feature, and amplification devices). The use of accessibility features on the STAAR assessments do not need to be documented and determination of a student's need for the support should be made on an individual basis.

2 Locally-approved Designated Supports

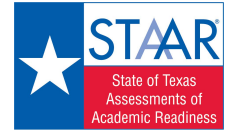
Locally-approved designated supports are allowable testing accommodations that are available only to individual students who meet specific requirements for eligibility. For a student to receive the support, campus staff must verify the student meets the requirements. There are several locally-approved designated supports and each have specific policy guidelines. Some of these supports include oral and signed administration, basic transcribing, supplemental aids, spelling assistance, and content and language supports.

3 TEA-approved Designated Supports

TEA-approved designated supports are accommodations that are rare and require advance approval from the Texas Education Agency. An individual student must be unable to access the assessment using accessibility features or locally-approved designated supports to address their needs. Campus staff must review the eligibility criteria and send information to support the need for the requested accommodation. The four TEA-approved designated supports are Complex Transcribing, Mathematics Scribe, Extra Day, and Other.

Coordination with campus staff to identify the level of necessary support for your child is important for your child to be successful.

Online Testing Accommodations



A brief overview of online features, tools, and supports available for STAAR

The STAAR assessment offers online features and supports to make testing more accessible for students who routinely receive accommodations in the classroom and on assessments. Some online supports are considered Accessibility Features and are available to any student who may benefit from the support. Other embedded online supports and tools are considered part of the Locally-approved Designated Supports and require eligibility criteria to be met in order to receive the accommodation during an online test administration.

Accessibility Features in the Online Assessment Available to All Students



Visual Supports—Visual supports allow students the ability to use the available features, settings, and tools to access the test questions, answer choices, and passages. Enlarging font on the screen and changing colors on the screen can assist students with visual impairments and guiding tools can help with visual tracking. Some of these available features and tools include:

- Zoom Feature
- Color Settings
- Line Reader
- Highlighter/Guideline Tool



Learning and Cognition Supports—These types of assistive technology accessibility features allow students to add notes to test questions, answer choices, and passages to help facilitate comprehension. Students can use these tools to make notes and annotations. These tools are available on all online assessments and include the following:

- Notepad
- Sticky Notes

Online Accommodations Available to Students Who Qualify



extraneous



Designated Supports—For students who meet eligibility, specific designated support tools will be embedded in the online test. Locally-approved designated support policy documents are available on the accommodations resources webpage. These documents outline examples and types of online tools available. Examples of some tools that are available include support for oral and signed administrations, calculation aids, and basic transcribing. These tools are listed below:

- Text-to-Speech
- American Sign Language
- Calculator
- Speech-to-Text

Content and Language Supports—Students who meet eligibility requirements for content and language supports will receive accommodations that allow for various types of assistance (for example, scaffolded directions, assistance with tracking, graphic organizers, simplified language, graphic representations of vocabulary and concepts) to support a student's understanding of test questions, answer choices, and passages. The embedded online supports are provided with the use of the following:

- Pop-ups
- Rollovers
- Supplementary materials

To view online accommodation features, tools, and supports visit the Student and Families section of [Texasassessment.gov](https://www.texasassessment.gov) and log in to the STAAR Practice Tests.