From: <u>CAI Texas Testing Communication</u>
Subject: Important Update on Chrome OS

**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 12:53:06 PM

To the Region and District Testing Coordinators and Technology Directors Addressed:

As previously announced, Spanish text-to-speech (TTS) voice packs are no longer available by default within the secure browser for Chromebooks running Chrome OS version 119 due to a recent change in Google's operating system. Google's change also affects all other non-English voice packs within Chromebooks, including voice packs used for instructional purposes. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Cambium Assessment, Inc. (CAI) have been actively working with Google to resolve the issue, but at this point there is not an automatic solution. As a result, Spanish voice packs for Chrome OS version 119 must be manually installed for testing.

Students who use Chromebooks for testing and who need Spanish TTS during the February 2024 Stand-Alone Field Test and the Spring 2024 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) administrations must have the Spanish voice pack activated in the secure browser. District personnel must install the Spanish voice pack manually using the following steps:

- 1. Enable the option for the *Floating Accessibility Toolbar* in the ChromeOS Management Console.
- 2. After opening the secure browser on the device, click on the new floating toolbar in the right corner of the screen, choose *Settings*, and install the Spanish voice pack.
- 3. Disable the option for the *Floating Accessibility Toolbar* in the ChromeOS Management Console.

TEA and CAI apologize for this unavoidable inconvenience.

For questions regarding this information or a step-by-step guide for manually installing the Spanish voice pack on Chromebooks, contact Texas Testing Support at 833-601-8821, <a href="mailto:TexasTestingSupport@cambiumassessment.com">TexasAssessment.gov via live chat</a>.