


STAAR Alternate Updates

Training for STAAR Alternate will be provided by the Texas Education Agency through the new STAAR Alternate online training modules, STAAR Alternate manuals, resources available on the STAAR Alternate Resources webpage, and TETN presentations. No visits to ESC facilities will be provided. Since additional rigor has been added to the assessment, we recommend that no additional trainings in the regions or districts be done until teachers and administrators have had a chance to view the new training modules. We want to make sure that new requirements and assessment administration focus are being appropriately communicated to the individuals who will be administering STAAR Alternate. As always, the STAAR Alternate team is available by phone or e-mail to help clarify any of the information presented in the training materials that have been developed. STAAR Alternate will replace TAKS-Alt assessments for all grades and high school courses.

Specific updates:

- Training Modules 1, 2, and 3 will be available on August 29, 2011 on the TrainingCenter site at <http://www.TexasAssessment.com/taksaltonlinetraining>. All existing registered users will have access to the center using the same user name and password that were used in previous years. New users will need to register using the new site code that will be provided to the district testing coordinator. TAKS-Alt modules are no longer available.
- Training Module 4 will be available on October 3, 2011 at the same website as noted above.
- Test administrators will only be allowed two opportunities to pass each module qualification with 80% accuracy. If the test administrator is unable to pass a qualification, the district should provide additional training. At the discretion of the district, test administrators may be given another opportunity to pass the qualification once supplemental support training has been provided. A description of who can serve as a supervisor and what type of additional training should be provided will be explained in detail in the *STAAR Alternate Manual for District and Campus Testing Coordinators* and presented at the September 7, 2011 TETN.
- English I, II, III assessments will contain four essence statements as the other STAAR Alternate assessments. Two essence statements will cover the reading curriculum student expectations and two essence statements will cover the writing curriculum student expectations.
- All English and Social Studies documents will be posted in the next few weeks.
- Resource documents have been updated and posted with new dates to the STAAR Alternate Resources webpage. Some previous resources have been eliminated. Please

advise test administrators to use only the most current resources. Districts are strongly encouraged to discard all TAKS-Alt resources.

- New address for the STAAR Alternate Resource page:
www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/special-ed/staaralt.
- New e-mail address for the STAAR Alternate Team: staaralt@tea.state.tx.us.
- New documents will be dated and marked with an icon. 
 - *Self-Monitoring Questions for the STAAR Alternate Assessment* - A one page document that takes all the monitoring questions from each module to provide a concise reference for test administrators before moving on to the next step in the administration process.
 - *Appropriate Change in Materials from Instruction to Assessment Observation* - A document with concrete examples to help teachers determine how much change in materials is appropriate when moving from instruction to planning the assessment observation.
 - *STAAR Alternate Documentation Form of Student Performance Guidelines* - A document that uses the actual documentation form to present guidelines for what should be written under each section of the form.
 - *Differences between TAKS-Alt and STAAR Alternate* – A side-by-side document comparing the changes between the two assessment programs.
- STAAR Alternate TETN Presentations
 - September 7, 2011-The presentation will focus on new policy updates, online registration updates, new and expanded resources, the differences between TAKS-Alt and STAAR Alternate, how high school assessments will be determined, and the introduction to the training modules.
 - October 20, 2011-The presentation will be a question and answer format that will allow ESC personnel and their invitees to interact with the STAAR Alternate team regarding the content of the training modules. We request that no remote sites be included. Questions can be collected from districts in the region and asked by the participants at the ESC sites. Questions can also be e-mailed to the STAAR Alternate team ahead of time to make sure that concerns are addressed.
 - January 4, 2012-The presentation will include online system updates, audit information, and reminders to districts of monitoring responsibilities during the assessment window.
- STAAR Alternate high school assessments will be determined by the course selections made by the ARD committee for courses on the Minimum High School Program. Although students being assessed with STAAR Alternate receive instruction through prerequisite skills that are linked to End-of-Course subjects, course enrollment stills needs to be addressed by the ARD committee. The student is required to take the

corresponding assessment in the same year that the student is enrolled in the course and receiving the instruction on the course content. For high school students who have previously taken TAKS-Alt assessments, credit will be given for previous TAKS-Alt participation as shown in the table below.

	Students Enrolled in Grade 9 2011–2012	Students Enrolled in Grade 10 2011–2012	Students Enrolled in Grade 11 2011–2012	Students Enrolled in Grade 12 2011–2012
Assessment requirements met with TAKS–Alt (by taking the grade/subject TAKS–Alt test)	None	English I (by grade 9 Reading) Algebra I (by Grade 9 Mathematics)	English I (by grade 9 Reading) English II (by grade 10 ELA) Algebra I (by Grade 9 Mathematics) Geometry (by grade 10 Mathematics) Biology (by grade 10 Science) World Geography or World History (by grade 10 Social Studies)	Requirements met through grades 9, 10, and 11 TAKS–Alt participation
STAAR Assessments to be determined yearly by the ARD committee for each student. All must be taken sometime before student graduates from high school.	English I English II English III Algebra I Geometry Biology U. S. History *World Geography or World History	English II English III Geometry Biology U. S. History *World Geography or World History	English III U. S. History *World Geography or World History	All requirements met

**Students must take either World Geography or World History. If the ARD committee decides that the student will be enrolled in both of the courses throughout high school, the student must be assessed in both World Geography and World History.*