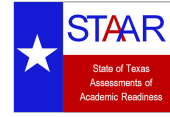


Understanding the STAAR Report Card



A detailed look at what's inside and how to use it

VOICE-OVER — Testing is a part of life and can be good training for the future. As adults, we take tests all the time, to get our driver's license, to get into graduate school and sometimes to be promoted at work.

The STAAR, or State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, is a series of tests that help tell us how our children are doing in school. The goal is to make sure your child is learning what he or she should be and is on-track to graduate from high school ready for college or a career.

Before each STAAR test, teachers make sure students know what to expect: what subjects will be tested, what materials to bring, how much time they have to take the test, and what happens before, during, and after the testing period.

Once your child has completed the STAAR test, there are so many important things you'll learn by looking at his or her STAAR report card. Let's jump in!

On the front cover, you'll see a letter from the Texas Commissioner of Education and an overview of the different performance levels that your child may achieve on the STAAR test. Performance is the term we use to describe how much information your child knew about the subject tested.

At the top of the front cover, you'll see an overview of the performance levels your child achieved. There are four levels:

Masters grade level means your child showed mastery of the course knowledge and skills, and he or she is on track for college and career readiness.

Meets grade level means your child showed strong knowledge of course content and is prepared to progress to the next grade.

Approaches grade level means your child showed some knowledge of course content but may be missing critical elements. It's likely your child will need additional support in this subject.

Did not meet grade level means your child showed no basic understanding of course expectations. Your child will need significant help in this subject.

On page 2, you'll find a more detailed view of how your child did. For each area tested, you'll see a gauge showing the score ranges (far left being the lowest and far right being the highest), your child's exact score and where they fall along the score range. You'll also notice that the four sections of the bar graph match the four performance levels that can be achieved. To the left, you'll see how your child scored in comparison to other students who took the test.

If your child is in high school, page 3 will continue to talk about performance. If your child is in elementary or middle school, the page is all about progress. When we say progress, we are referring to the academic improvement your child is making from year to year and how much they have progressed across grades.



