



# 2017 - 2018 STAAR

## ***What is STAAR?***

STAAR stands for State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, which is the state's student testing program. The assessments are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, which are the state curriculum standards. Beginning in grade 3 through high school, students will be tested in the core subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

## ***What is the purpose behind STAAR or the standardized testing of my child?***

STAAR tests show whether a student has mastered specific knowledge of a core subject at a certain grade level. Test results should provide parents assurance that their child is prepared to enter the next grade level within their school district or any Texas district. Finally, the results provide educators and administrators with uniform information about where to focus resources – especially in the core subjects being taught.

## ***How many STAAR tests are there each year in elementary and middle school?***

The number of tests taken each year will vary, depending on the grade level:

- Grade 3 – Mathematics, Reading
- Grade 4 – Mathematics, Reading, Writing
- Grade 5 – Mathematics, Reading, Science
- Grade 6 – Mathematics, Reading
- Grade 7 – Mathematics, Reading, Writing
- Grade 8 – Mathematics, Reading, Science, Social Studies

## ***What are the five tests required in high school?***

In order to graduate from a Texas public high school, students must pass five end-of-course tests:

- English I
- Algebra I
- Biology
- English II
- U.S. History

Unless a student is eligible for an accommodation, each student will have four hours to complete each assessment – except for the high school English I and English II end-of-course exams which have a five-hour time limit.

## ***What if my child took one of these courses with a required end-of-course exam in middle school?***

If a student is enrolled in grade 8 or below and takes a course for which there is a STAAR end-of-course assessment, that student is required to take the applicable STAAR end-of-course assessment. Though taken in middle school, the tests will count toward the state's high school graduation requirement.

- The latest STAAR information can be found on the Texas Education Agency website at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/>.

If you have additional questions about your child's tests or the assessment program at Paradise ISD, please contact your child's campus or

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