

## STAAR Online Testing Practice Tests and 2017 Updates

1. To access any of the 2016 released **online** STAAR assessments, you must first download/install the STAAR online testing platform to the device you are using. Please refer to the STAAR Online Testing Platform information:  
[http://tea.texas.gov/Student\\_Testing\\_and\\_Accountability/Testing/State\\_of\\_Texas\\_Assessments\\_of\\_Academic\\_Readiness\\_\(STAAR\)/STAAR\\_Online\\_Testing\\_Platform/](http://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Testing/State_of_Texas_Assessments_of_Academic_Readiness_(STAAR)/STAAR_Online_Testing_Platform/) for directions, then download/install the link for the device you are using from <https://www.texasassessment.com/technology/>.

2. Once you have installed the platform, you will see the following icon:



3. Double-click on the icon and your computer will be secured to enter the testing platform.
4. Select the **Practice** tab
  - a. Enter the grade level and content area (or EOC and content area)
  - b. Select the test type
    - i. **STAAR A** – STAAR test with embedded accommodations
    - ii. **STAAR L** – STAAR test with embedded language accommodations
    - iii. **STAAR SOA** – STAAR Standard Oral Administration – this is STAAR with the text-to-speech accommodation only
    - iv. **STAAR** – online version of STAAR test with no embedded accommodations (only available for EOCs)
    - v. **Note** – the STAAR A tests have the text-to-speech feature embedded
5. The tests are the full released STAAR tests from last year, in the same format as they were during 2016 testing.
6. There are a few new features that will be available for 2017 testing that will not be available on these released tests, including:
  - a. Reading (through text-to-speech) of the pop-ups and rollovers
  - b. Reading (through text-to-speech) of the revising passages on the writing tests

- c. This year, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR tests can all be taken in the online format with no embedded accommodations

## 2017 STAAR Online Testing Information

1. Every online test will have certain tools available to all users. These are called **Accessibility Features**
2. The embedded accommodations available through STAAR A, STAAR L, and STAAR SOA last year, will now be available as **personal needs and preferences (PNPs)**. These accommodations are now called **designated supports** and are divided into 3 categories; **Oral Administration (text-to-speech)**, **Content Supports**, and **Language & Vocabulary Supports**. Each of these has eligibility criteria. I am pasting some information from the TEA Student Assessment website about each below:

- **Oral Administration (text-to-speech)**

### Description of Accommodation

This accommodation, or designated support, allows test material to be read aloud to a student. All references to reading support during an oral administration also apply to signing during a signed administration. In addition, an online oral administration is administered via text-to-speech.

### Student Eligibility Criteria

A student may use this accommodation if he or she

- routinely and effectively uses this accommodation during classroom instruction and classroom testing, and
- meets at least one of the following:
  - The student is a current ELL.
  - The student is identified with dyslexia or a related disorder per TEC §38.003.
  - The student has documented evidence of reading difficulties.

- o For students qualifying for Oral Administration **only**, the **STAAR SOA** practice tests will help students and teachers understand the online text-to-speech tool.

- **Content Supports**

- o For students qualifying for content supports, the **STAAR A** practice tests will help students and teachers understand the online pop-up and rollover tools.

- **Language & Vocabulary Supports**

**Description of Accommodation**

This accommodation, or designated support, allows for simplified language, simpler sentence structure, and graphic representations of vocabulary and concepts to support a student's understanding of selections, test questions, and answer choices.

**Student Eligibility Criteria**

A student may use this accommodation if

- instructional and assessment decisions are made by an LPAC, Section 504 committee, or ARD committee, and
- he or she routinely, independently, and effectively uses this accommodation during classroom instruction and classroom testing

- o For students qualifying for language & vocabulary supports, the **STAAR A** and **STAAR L** practice tests will help students and teachers understand the online pop-up and rollover tools.