State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™)
Dictionary Policy

The state assessment program has new policies for dictionary use on STAAR.

Dictionaries must be available to **all** students taking

- STAAR reading assessments (including STAAR Modified) at grades 6–8
- STAAR writing assessments (including STAAR Modified) at grade 7
- STAAR English I, II, and III reading and writing assessments (including STAAR Modified)

While students are working through the reading and writing assessments in the grades/courses listed above, they must have access to a dictionary. The school may provide dictionaries, or students may bring them from home. The minimum schools need is one dictionary for every five students testing, but the state's recommendation is one for every three students or, optimally, one for each student.

Although thesauruses are not required, they are allowable on all the assessments listed above, either in combination with a dictionary or as a separate resource. If districts make thesauruses available to students during testing, it is recommended that there be one thesaurus for every five students.

The following types of dictionaries are allowable on STAAR:

- Standard dictionaries in English
- Dictionary/thesaurus combinations
- Bilingual dictionaries*
- ESL dictionaries*
- Sign language dictionaries

Both paper and electronic dictionaries are permitted. However, electronic dictionaries must not allow access to the Internet.

Information regarding dictionaries as an accommodation for students with disabilities and English language learners can be found on the Accommodation Resources webpage.

*Bilingual and ESL dictionaries should be provided in accordance with individual student needs based on how much students use them in instruction and classroom testing. While there is no requirement regarding a minimum number of bilingual or ESL dictionaries schools must provide, for ELLs who depend heavily on a dictionary in language arts instruction, it is recommended that there be one dictionary for each student. An ELL or other student may, as needed, use more than one of the above dictionaries.