NEWS Texas Education Agency
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TEA News Releases Online Jan. 29, 2013

Williams: Passing rates top 70 percent for most STAAR tests in grades 3-8

AUSTIN – Commissioner of Education Michael L. Williams announced today that passing rates on most State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) tests for grades 3-8 topped 70 percent in 2012. The STAAR was given for the first time in Texas public and charter schools last spring.

Among the results for grades 3-8, the highest passing rates are seen on some 8th grade tests. Eighty percent of eighth-grade students passed the STAAR reading test, 76 percent passed the STAAR mathematics test, and 70 percent passed the STAAR science test.

"We have set the bar higher with a more rigorous test, and our students and teachers are already on a path to meeting those higher expectations," Commissioner Williams said. "I have no doubt results in future years will continue to improve but only if our state elects to keep the focus on educating every child in every classroom in every district across Texas."

According to results compiled by the Texas Education Agency, the subject area with the highest STAAR passing rate at each grade level includes:

- 3rd Grade: Reading (76%)
- 4th Grade: Reading (77%)
- 5th Grade: Reading (77%) and Mathematics (77%)
- 6th Grade: Mathematics (77%)
- 7th Grade: Reading (76%)
- 8th Grade: Reading (80%)

Commissioner Williams noted the passing percentages for all areas (except three) are at 70 percent or better. The lowest passing rate (59%) occurred on the 8th grade social studies test could be attributed to the inclusion of new social studies curriculum content, as well as the use of more primary sources in test questions than occurred previously on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

"I recognize there has been a lot of anxiety surrounding STAAR tests, but I believe these are encouraging passing rates for the first year of a new more rigorous test," Commissioner Williams said. "Clearly, we still have work to do, but I remain optimistic that passing rates will rise this spring in the second administration of STAAR, just as they have traditionally done in the second year of a new testing program."

Following are passing rates for the Grade 3-8 assessments.

Passing Rates for 2012 STAAR Grades 3-8					
Grade	**Reading**	**Mathematics**	**Writing**	**Science**	**Social Studies**
3	76%	68%	–	–	–
4	77%	68%	71%	–	–
5	77%	77%	–	73%	–
6	75%	77%	–	–	–
7	76%	71%	71%	–	–
8	80%	76%	–	70%	59%

– *STAAR not required for grade level*

As with the high school STAAR tests, passing standards are being phased in for the elementary and middle school tests using a four-year, two-step process. This approach provides school districts with time to adjust instruction, provide additional training for teachers, and close knowledge gaps.

Although students first took the STAAR tests last spring, the passing standards were not finalized until recently for grades 3-8. State law required the passing rates to be set on the high school end-of-course exams first, with the standards for tests in lower grades aligned to those standards. Passing standards for the end-of-course assessments were established last spring.

For spring 2013 testing, results will be released on the normal schedule, which is typically by the end of the school year.

Additional information about grades 3-8 results can be found on the STAAR resources webpage at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/ under the statewide summary reports link. A question and answer document and technical details about the standard setting process are also available on that page.

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TEA News Releases Online Jan. 29, 2013

Commissioner Williams announces STAAR end-of-course passing rates climb for first group of testers

AUSTIN – Commissioner of Education Michael L. Williams announced today that the latest cumulative results in the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) end-of-course (EOC) assessments reveal an increase in passing rates for current 10th-grade students.

The STAAR end-of-course tests were given for the first time last spring to 9th-grade students. The cumulative results track that group of students, including those who had the opportunity to retake in the summer and fall any end-of-course exams they initially failed.

Williams noted that in some cases, the final cumulative passing rate for specific subject areas jumped by more than 10 percent from the initial spring administration of the tests. Increases (per individual subject area) for students who initially took the EOC assessments as 9th graders in spring 2012 include:

- **Algebra I**
  Spring 2012 Passing Rate: 76.8%
  Cumulative Passing Rate: 84.7%

- **English I – Reading**
  Spring 2012 Passing Rate: 67.7%
  Cumulative Passing Rate: 81.2%

- **English I – Writing**
  Spring 2012 Passing Rate: 54.4%
  Cumulative Passing Rate: 72.6%

- **Biology**
  Spring 2012 Passing Rate: 86.4%
  Cumulative Passing Rate: 91.0%

- **World Geography**
  Spring 2012 Passing Rate: 79.7%
  Cumulative Passing Rate: 84.8%

"The improvement in overall performance is directly attributable to the hard work of students and educators across our state," said Commissioner Williams. "While there is still work to be

done to ensure success for all, these improved numbers are indicative of what can occur when the focus is on students and a commitment to achieve success in the classroom."

The results below show the passing rates for the first administration and the cumulative passing rate after three testing opportunities. The figures do not include any current 10th-grade students who may have enrolled in the public schools since the tests were first given.

STAAR End-of-Course Passing Rates – Grade 9

Spring 2012 Passing Rates			Cumulative Passing Rates		
Algebra I	**# of Students**	**Passing Rate**	**Algebra I**	**# of Students**	**Passing Rate**
Passed	192,127	76.8%	Passed	211,988	84.7%
Did Not Pass	58,187	23.2%	Did Not Pass	38,326	15.3%
English I - Reading			**English I - Reading**		
Passed	223,910	67.7%	Passed	268,266	81.2%
Did Not Pass	106,640	32.3%	Did Not Pass	62,284	18.8%
English I - Writing			**English I - Writing**		
Passed	179,734	54.4%	Passed	240,060	72.6%
Did Not Pass	150,939	45.6%	Did Not Pass	90,613	27.4%
Biology			**Biology**		
Passed	277,956	86.4%	Passed	292,675	91.0%
Did Not Pass	43,773	13.6%	Did Not Pass	29,054	9.0%
World Geography			**World Geography**		
Passed	259,494	79.7%	Passed	276,029	84.8%
Did Not Pass	65,913	20.3%	Did Not Pass	49,378	15.2%
Cumulative Passing Rate includes all administrations (Spring, Summer, Fall 2012)					

Through the Texas Education Agency's online learning community, Project Share, the agency has provided the free OnTrack Lessons at no cost to all Texas districts and open-enrollment charters. The online lessons are aligned to the state's curriculum standards for math, English, science and social studies. Many school districts have used these supplemental lessons to help bolster the skills of students who failed end-of-course exams or who need additional practice in preparation for the exams.

Statewide results for the December EOC retests are available at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/staar/rpt/sum/yr12/. These results include any student who took the EOCs, and not just the cohort tracked in this study. Results for individual districts are available from local districts and charters.

# # #

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™)
Phase-In Illustration for Level II and III Across Multiple Cohorts of Students

STAAR assessments in bold indicate that phase-in performance standards will be applied; STAAR assessments not in bold indicate that recommended performance standards will be applied. The vertical dashed green and blue lines mark the beginning of the first and second phase-in periods, respectively, for Level II. The vertical dashed orange line signals the implementation of the final recommended performance standards for Level II and Level III.

Level II* Phase-in

Cohort	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Grade 9 **Algebra I**	Grade 10 **Geometry**	Grade 11 **Algebra II**				
2	Grade 8 **Mathematics**	Grade 9 **Algebra I**	Grade 10 **Geometry**	Grade 11 **Algebra II**			
3	Grade 7 **Mathematics**	Grade 8 **Mathematics**	Grade 9 **Algebra I**	Grade 10 **Geometry**	Grade 11 **Algebra II**		
4	Grade 6 **Mathematics**	Grade 7 **Mathematics**	Grade 8 **Mathematics**	Grade 9 **Algebra I**	Grade 10 **Geometry**	Grade 11 **Algebra II**	
5	Grade 5 **Mathematics**	Grade 6 **Mathematics**	Grade 7 **Mathematics**	Grade 8 **Mathematics**	Grade 9 Algebra I	Grade 10 Geometry	Grade 11 Algebra II
6	Grade 4 **Mathematics**	Grade 5 **Mathematics**	Grade 6 **Mathematics**	Grade 7 **Mathematics**	Grade 8 Mathematics	Grade 9 Algebra I	Grade 10 Geometry
7	Grade 3 **Mathematics**	Grade 4 **Mathematics**	Grade 5 **Mathematics**	Grade 6 **Mathematics**	Grade 7 Mathematics	Grade 8 Mathematics	Grade 9 Algebra I

Level III Phase-in**

Cohort	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Grade 9 **Algebra I**	Grade 10 **Geometry**	Grade 11 **Algebra II**				
2	Grade 8	Grade 9 **Algebra I**	Grade 10 **Geometry**	Grade 11 **Algebra II**			
3	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9 Algebra I	Grade 10 Geometry	Grade 11 Algebra II		
4	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9 Algebra I	Grade 10 Geometry	Grade 11 Algebra II	
5	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9 Algebra I	Grade 10 Geometry	Grade 11 Algebra II

*The Level II phase-in example used above will be applied to all STAAR assessments.

**The Level III phase-in example used above will be applied only to Algebra II, English III reading, and English III writing.

Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division
January 2013

1st Year Administrations of TAKS and STAAR – Comparison of Pass Rates at Phase-In Standards

		TAKS 2002-03* * Reported at 2SEM Below Panel Recommendation	STAAR 2011-12** ** Reported at Phase-In 1 Standards
Mathematics	Grade 3	90%	68%
	Grade 4	87%	68%
	Grade 5	86%	77%
	Grade 6	79%	77%
	Grade 7	73%	71%
	Grade 8	72%	76%
	Grade 9	63%	
	Algebra 1		83%
	Grade 10	73%	
	Grade 11	68%	
Mathematics (Spanish)	Grade 3	82%	56%
	Grade 4	74%	53%
	Grade 5	66%	49%
Science	Grade 5	74%	73%
	Grade 8	†	70%
	Biology		87%
	Grade 10	69%	
	Grade 11	67%	
Science (Spanish)	Grade 5	32%	41%

† 8th grade science was first administered in 2005-06 and reported at 71% passing (2SEM below panel recommendation)

		TAKS 2002-03* * Reported at 2SEM Below Panel Recommendation	STAAR 2011-12** ** Reported at Phase-In 1 Standards
Reading	Grade 3	89%	76%
	Grade 4	85%	77%
	Grade 5	79%	77%
	Grade 6	86%	75%
	Grade 7	87%	76%
	Grade 8	88%	80%
	Grade 9	82%	
	English 1		68%
Reading (Spanish)	Grade 3	82%	65%
	Grade 4	81%	60%
	Grade 5	75%	69%
English Language Arts	Grade 10	72%	
	Grade 11	69%	
Writing	Grade 4	86%	71%
	Grade 7	85%	71%
	English 1		55%
Writing (Spanish)	Grade 4	87%	64%
Social Studies	Grade 8	93%	59%
	World Geo		81%
	Grade 10	86%	
	Grade 11	90%	

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™)

Level II and Level III Pass Rates at Phase-In and Final Recommended Standards

Spring 2012 Statewide Results

		Level II Pass Rates Phase-In I Standard	Level II Pass Rates Phase-In II Standard	Level II Pass Rate Recommended Standard	Level III Pass Rate Recommended Standard
Mathematics	Grade 3	68%	48%	30%	15%
	Grade 4	68%	47%	32%	13%
	Grade 5	77%	57%	36%	19%
	Grade 6	77%	57%	37%	19%
	Grade 7	71%	49%	33%	11%
	Grade 8	76%	54%	36%	7%
	Grade 9				
	Algebra I*	83%	62%	39%	17%
	Grade 10				
	Grade 11				
Mathematics (Spanish)	Grade 3	56%	34%	18%	7%
	Grade 4	53%	31%	19%	6%
	Grade 5	49%	27%	13%	5%
Reading	Grade 3	76%	60%	39%	21%
	Grade 4	77%	62%	42%	19%
	Grade 5	77%	61%	40%	17%
	Grade 6	75%	58%	38%	17%
	Grade 7	76%	58%	39%	18%
	Grade 8	80%	62%	43%	19%
	Grade 9				
	English I*	68%	54%	46%	8%
Reading (Spanish)	Grade 3	65%	44%	28%	12%
	Grade 4	60%	42%	27%	11%
	Grade 5	69%	51%	31%	10%
Writing	Grade 4	71%	56%	33%	7%
	Grade 7	71%	53%	32%	7%
	English I*	55%	42%	34%	3%
Writing (Spanish)	Grade 4	64%	43%	26%	4%
Science	Grade 5	73%	50%	34%	12%
	Grade 8	70%	53%	34%	12%
	Biology*	87%	64%	41%	9%
	Grade 10				
	Grade 11				
Science (Spanish)	Grade 5	41%	19%	9%	2%
Social Studies	Grade 8	59%	40%	24%	12%
	World Geo*	81%	62%	40%	13%
	Grade 10				
	Grade 11				

* Results for STAAR EOC assessments are for the spring 2012 administration only and do not include summer and winter retest results

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™)

Number and Percent of Students Passing and Passing + Met Minimum for All Tests Taken

Cumulative Results Across All 2012 Administrations*

9th Grade Cohort – Class of 2015 – 1st STAAR EOC Administration in Spring 2012

Student Group	Spring 2012					Spring & Summer 2012 Combined					Spring, Summer, & Winter 2012 Combined				
	Students Tested	Passed All Tests Taken		Passed + Met Minimum All Tests Taken		Students Tested	Passed All Tests Taken		Passed + Met Minimum All Tests Taken		Students Tested	Passed All Tests Taken		Passed + Met Minimum All Tests Taken	
All Students	342,038	160,860	47%	202,424	59%	342,038	182,932	53%	226,495	66%	342,038	222,779	65%	262,055	77%
Black or African American	43,189	15,101	35%	21,014	49%	43,189	17,835	41%	24,306	56%	43,189	23,133	54%	29,497	68%
Hispanic / Latino	166,160	60,419	36%	81,849	49%	166,160	72,222	43%	95,479	57%	166,160	93,862	56%	116,313	70%
White	111,639	71,029	64%	83,421	75%	111,639	77,489	69%	89,572	80%	111,639	88,719	79%	97,852	88%
Economically Disadvantaged	186,481	61,584	33%	86,123	46%	186,481	73,885	40%	100,939	54%	186,481	98,505	53%	125,181	67%

* Includes STAAR and STAAR L