



October 6, 2015

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Performance Standards Requirements for 2015–2016 and Beyond

This letter is to inform school districts that I am recommending the replacement of the current phase-in schedule for the STAAR® program's student passing standards with a revised approach. Current commissioner of education rule specifies a phase-in approach to reaching the final standards in 2021–2022. Under the current approach, the next phase-in level (phase-in 2) is scheduled to be implemented in the 2015–2016 school year.

Under a proposed amendment to the current commissioner rule (19 TAC §101.3041), the phase-in approach would be replaced with a standard progression approach from 2015–2016 through 2021–2022, increasing performance standards annually in smaller increments. Intended to minimize any abrupt single-year increase in the required Level II performance standard, the standard progression approach would still allow annual, consistent, incremental improvements toward the final recommended Level II performance in 2021–2022.

The proposed commissioner of education rule can be accessed at the following link:
[http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/Commissioner_Rules_\(TAC\)/Proposed_Commissioner_of_Education_Rules/](http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/Commissioner_Rules_(TAC)/Proposed_Commissioner_of_Education_Rules/)

The formal rule proposal will be published in the *Texas Register* on October 16, 2015, and a 30-day public comment period on the proposal will then commence. Both the site at the provided link and the *Texas Register* will have information about how the public can submit comments on the proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael Williams
Commissioner of Education