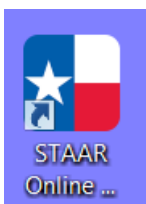


STAAR Online Testing Practice Tests and 2017 Updates

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. I have created a bit.ly link that will take you straight to the download/install page: <http://bit.ly/staaronline> . Download/install the link for the device you are using.

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 3rd-8th 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.

- 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**

Description of Accommodation

This accommodation, or designated support, allows for scaffolded directions, assistance with tracking, visual aids, and various graphic organizers to support a student's understanding of tested content.

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

- 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

- 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.