



## Transition from the TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TAKS) to THE STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC READINESS (STAAR)

The 2010-2011 academic year is the last year that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will use the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test for all students in grades 3-11. The 2011-2012 academic year starts a new system of testing and evaluating students in Texas. The next generation of student testing in Texas is called the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). The STAAR test will be the new assessment in grades 3-8 and includes twelve (12) end-of-course (EOC) assessments in high school courses. STAAR field test items will be imbedded in the spring, 2011 TAKS test.

- ◆ Students in grades 3-8 will take the STAAR version of tests in all subjects in which they are tested. For students in high school courses, only those students who are starting high school courses in 2011-2012 will take the STAAR EOC tests towards their graduation requirements. Those students already in high school in 2010-2011 taking TAKS tests will continue to take TAKS tests through their graduation.
- ◆ The STAAR tests for grades 3-8 are significantly more rigorous than the TAKS tests. The tests are designed to measure not only a student's academic achievement but also a student's academic growth with particular emphasis placed on assessing a student's progress with respect to college and career readiness. The tests in reading and mathematics are linked from grade to grade to performance expectations that a student must demonstrate on the English III and Algebra II EOC tests. The tests in science focus more on content that better prepares students for high school biology, chemistry and physics courses.
- ◆ STAAR EOC tests for high school courses cover four disciplines: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Each discipline contains three (3) tests: **English Language Arts** – English I, English II and English III; **Mathematics** – Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; **Science** – Biology, Chemistry, and Physics; and **Social Studies** – World Geography, World History, and U.S. History.

- ◆ The STAAR EOC tests are different and more rigorous than the high school TAKS tests. TAKS tests in high school cover multiple subjects. Each STAAR EOC test focuses on content in a specific course and students take the EOC test when they complete the course the test covers. They also place a greater emphasis on assessing a student's college and career readiness in the tested subject. Finally, TEA mandates STAAR EOC test scores count for 15% of the final course grade in the tested subject.
  
- ◆ High school students on either the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Plan will be required to take all twelve (12) STAAR EOC tests. TEA has established requirements for graduation with the following guidelines.
  - For each STAAR EOC, TEA sets a *minimum score* which a student must achieve for the test to count in meeting graduation requirements.
  - For each EOC test, TEA also sets a *pass score* and a *commended performance score*.
  - **To graduate, a student should obtain a passing score or higher in each of three (3) tests in each of the four (4) disciplines; English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.**
  - TEA makes allowances for a student to graduate even if the student is not making a passing score on all three (3) tests in a given discipline. TEA will consider the student to have fulfilled the test requirements for each discipline, if:
    - A student makes at least the minimum score in each of the three (3) subject tests in a given discipline **and** if the sum of the student's scores in the three subject tests is greater than or equal to the sum of the pass rates for those three (3) tests.
  - Requirements for students taking high school courses, requiring EOC exams, while in Junior High are still being worked out.