



EL PASO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Office

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Dear EPISD Parents:

For school year 2020-2021, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) determined that the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) and End of Course (EOC) exams are optional for students learning remotely. Additionally, TEA determined that the promotional requirements for STAAR testing in third through eighth grade (3-8) are waived. TEA is also allowing students to forego EOC exams; however, graduation requirements remain in place.

As per TEA guidelines, all STAAR and EOC exams must be administered on campus and under the supervision of District personnel. EPISD will move forward with the administration of both the STAAR and EOC exams this spring for students who are learning on campus and for students learning remotely who opt to take the assessments.

Although not required, the test will provide meaningful results due to the ongoing pandemic. Through the data obtained from testing results, we will be able to assess the extent of any learning loss students may have experienced this past year. It is critical, given the challenging year we have had, that our teachers and administrators have an accurate assessment of where each of our students stands academically. Student results on the STAAR and EOC exams will be used to determine what support each child may need in order to reach their long-term academic goals.

All students attending face-to-face instruction will take the test. We urge parents of remote students to allow their children to take the test at their designated campus. We understand that in the current environment the health and safety of our students are major concerns for parents. Rest assured, we will continue to observe our strict health and safety protocols during STAAR and EOC testing.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or principal. You can also find answers to frequently asked questions at our testing site here: www.episd.org/testing.

We hope you strongly consider having your children participate in this year's STAAR and EOC testing. Please register your child for upcoming testing here: <https://tools.episd.org/tools/inline/studenttestingsurvey>.

Respectfully,

Vince Sheffield
Interim Superintendent
El Paso Independent School District