What Parents Should Know About STAAR Online Testing

The Benefits

Matches Realities of Today's Environment

Today's learners are digital natives and use technology in their daily lives. Online testing addresses the realities of today's environment. In addition, changing workplace expectations mean that students need to be familiar with learning new online systems and performing tasks on computers.

Potential for Faster Results

Online testing potentially allows for teachers and students to receive test scores earlier, allowing for more timely teacher and student reflection.

Flexible Scheduling

Often, online testing occurs within an extended testing window, allowing districts to flexibly schedule testing with minimal impact to student instruction. Because paper check-in of materials is reduced, students can maximize test time within a given session.

Accommodation Support for Students

Online testing supports students efficiently. Designated supports, which include text-to-speech and content and language supports, cannot be replicated with paper tests in a standardized way. These built-in components provide individualized supports based on student needs while requiring less test administrator involvement. A student with a disability that prevents him or her from interacting with an online assessment will continue to be provided with a paper-based test.

Promotes Innovation in Assessments

Online testing allows for the continued exploration of new question types and assessment designs that support students and their needs.

The FAQs

? Other than STAAR, what assessment programs in Texas offer online testing?

In 2004, Texas introduced Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) to assess the progress that English learners make in learning the English language. Currently ~100% of TELPAS tests are administered online with 1.5 million submissions annually.

? How can I help my students become more familiar with the online testing platform before testing online?

It is recommended that students gain exposure to technological devices and familiarity with the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Online Testing Platform before test day. Tutorials and previously released STAAR tests known as practice tests can be accessed at school or at home.