

Moore MST Magnet School

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"Excellence in Middle Level Education"

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November 11, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Moore MST is participating in the Texas Through-year Assessment Pilot (TTAP) this school year. Your child will be participating in the Grade 8 Social Studies test.

What is TTAP?

House Bill 3906, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019, required the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to develop and pilot an innovative, through-year assessment model as a possible replacement of the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) summative tests. A through-year assessment model refers to a progress monitoring system that provides students multiple opportunities throughout the school year to demonstrate their mastery of standards and to contribute to their summative performance level reported at the end of the year.

TTAP has been designed in collaboration with Texas educators, administrators, students, and families. The progress monitoring system will have three, short testing opportunities – one in the fall, winter, and spring. The model will be piloted over several years to assess its benefits and to ensure that the design maintains the rigorous level of validity and reliability that STAAR currently meets, in hopes of creating a scoring methodology that is comparable and can be used for state accountability. About 10% of districts across the state have chosen to participate in the pilot, including Tyler ISD.

The goal of TTAP is to determine whether this assessment model provides timely and helpful information to teachers on students' progress towards end-of-year proficiency. Throughout the course of the pilot, TEA will be gathering feedback from students and teachers to help determine if this model could one day, in the future, replace STAAR.

Frequently Asked Questions About TTAP:

Question: When are the testing windows and how long are they?

Answer: TTAP will have one-week testing windows during the school year 2022 – 2023.

- Opportunity 1 (Fall): November 14 – November 18
- Opportunity 2 (Winter): January 30 – February 3
- Opportunity 3 (Spring): April 3 – April 7

Question: How much time should a typical student need to take each test?

Answer: Students will be completing the test in one sitting. The tests in Opportunities 1 and 2 are

designed to be completed within a class period, which we assume to be 45—50 minutes. Each test will be 17—20 questions. The Opportunity 3 test will be longer than those in Opportunities 1 and 2, but it will still be shorter than STAAR. It will have approximately 28—34 questions. TEA is working to make the tests as short as possible while still providing a reliable measure of student learning.

Question: What grade levels and subjects will be tested in the 2022 – 2023 school year?

Answer: Grade 5 science, grade 6 math, grade 7 math, and grade 8 social studies will be available. The pilot will aim to expand over multiple years.

Important Notes About TTAP:

- TTAP results will not be posted to texasassessment.gov. Districts will be responsible for sharing individual student reports with parents after each opportunity throughout the year.
- TTAP participation does not exempt districts from state summative testing, which is required for federal accountability purposes. TTAP will not have any implications to accountability while it is still in pilot stages.
- To maximize instructional time in the classroom, TTAP will serve as a direct replacement to other assessments that track progress towards end-of-year proficiency.

We appreciate your support and encouragement throughout this pilot. To learn more about the pilot, please visit the TTAP webpage at <https://tea.texas.gov/student-assessment/assessment-initiatives/hb-3906/texas-through-year-assessment-pilot>. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. You may contact Kathy Miles at Kathryn.miles@tylerisd.org.

Sincerely,

Aubrey Ballard