



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 11, 2021

Dear SMSD Parents and Guardians,

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requiring all students enrolled in Texas public schools, to take the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) in person at the school in which they are enrolled, which will serve as a monitored test site. State assessment logistical constraints prevent the State of Texas from administering the STAAR assessments in remote or at-home settings. Therefore, students must report to their campus for the STAAR test administrations on the assigned dates.

SMSD is committed to remaining in compliance with all federal and state laws related to state assessments. Providing the safest environment possible for students and staff on our campuses is our top priority. Data derived from the STAAR will assist our district with ascertaining students' academic progression and regression. Additionally, the data obtained from the STAAR will provide information to evaluate the impact the pandemic has had on student learning.

TEA has implemented several adjustments that enable districts to provide a safe on-campus testing environment, including the flexibility to expand the testing administration window from a single day to a window of test administration days while also providing remote instruction during this timeframe to reduce the number of students on campus during testing days.

It is our goal to ensure as many students as possible participate in STAAR assessments this Spring in a safe environment in adherence with the District's COVID-19 protocols. We recognize some parents who have elected online learning for their students may not feel comfortable sending their students onsite to complete the assessments at this time. We understand your concern and respect your decision.

We want to ensure you have a clear understanding of how omitting the STAAR assessment may impact your student. High school students who do not participate in required STAAR assessments will be impacted. Under current law, high school students are required to perform successfully on End of Course assessments (EOCs) to meet graduation requirements. In addition, it is beneficial for the student to participate in EOCs at the end of the year in which the course is taught to ensure the greatest degree of content retention and application.

To assist with planning, families of online learners will receive additional communication, including a survey to indicate intent to participate in STAAR testing. All families will soon receive additional details regarding Spring STAAR assessments test administration dates, directly from your student's campus. Please reach out to your campus directly if you have questions. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this unique school year!

Yours in learning,


Marva Rasberry M.Ed.
SMSD Chief Operations/Innovations Officer