

March 25, 2014

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: English I and English II End-of-Course (EOC) Performance Standards and Performance Standards Rulemaking

The 83rd Texas Legislature’s passage of House Bill 5 mandates that, beginning in spring 2014, the STAAR and STAAR Modified English I and English II reading and writing assessments may no longer be administered as separate assessments. To reflect the intent of this legislation, the English I and II assessments have been redesigned to combine reading and writing into a single measure with a single test score. Each redesigned English assessment must also be administered on a single day.

In January 2014, a standard-setting committee consisting of Texas educators was convened to recommend performance standards for the redesigned STAAR English I and English II assessments. The committee was comprised of a subset of the panelists that established the original standards in spring 2012 and included both K–12 and higher-education representatives. Consistent with previous STAAR standard setting, the phase-in 1, phase-in 2, and final recommended cut scores have been determined for Level II, which indicates satisfactory academic performance. The Level III standard (Advanced Academic Performance) will not be phased in. The following tables show the proposed cut scores for the STAAR and STAAR Modified English assessments.

**Table 1: STAAR Level II and Level III Cut Scores**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STAAR Assessment** | **Level II****Phase-in 1** | **Level II****Phase-in 2** | **Level II****Recommended** | **Level III** |
| English I | 3750 | 3900 | 4000 | 4691 |
| English II | 3750 | 3900 | 4000 | 4831 |

**Table 2: STAAR Modified Level II and Level III Cut Scores**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STAAR Modified Assessment** | **Level II****Phase-in 1** | **Level II****Phase-in 2** | **Level II****Recommended** | **Level III** |
| English I | 2800 | 2857 | 3000 | 3359 |
| English II | 2800 | 2857 | 3000 | 3302 |

Students not achieving Level II performance are considered to be at Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance.

Pass rates for the phase-in 1, phase-in 2, and final recommended cut scores will be reported in the 2014 statewide test reports.

Commissioner Rulemaking for Performance Standards

TEA has begun the rulemaking process to amend 19 TAC Chapter 101, Assessment, Subchapter CC, Commissioner's Rules Concerning Performance Standards, §101.3041, to implement the new English I and English II performance standards. The proposed rules will also specify the following:

* the phase-in 1 performance standard remains effective for the 2013–2014 school year for all applicable assessments; and
* the performance standard in place when a student first takes an EOC assessment will apply to all five EOC assessments.

For questions related to assessment performance standards, please call the Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536.

Sincerely,

Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner

Department of Assessment and Accountability