

STAAR Interim Assessments



What are they and why do we have them?

VOICE-OVER — The STAAR Interim Assessments are free, optional online tests that districts and charter schools can use to help educators track student progress. They show valid and reliable indicators of how well a student will perform on the summative STAAR test by providing valuable data to teachers so they know when intervention measures are needed to improve student understanding of a subject.

STAAR Interim Assessments are simply a snapshot of where a student stands academically and are not a part of the state accountability system. They are different than formative assessments, which are granular and diagnostic, assessing a single curriculum standard or a group of standards to inform immediate instruction. Interim assessments are different than the summative STAAR test, which is tied to accountability, and is administered at the end of the school year.

Interim assessments are offered through the STAAR Online Testing Platform software, which is free and already installed in most schools, and results are reported to schools in an easy-to-use format through the Online Reporting Suite. Schools can even give teachers access to their students' results.

Testing results from the interim assessments aren't directly shared with parents, but are designed to capture each student's current progress so that teachers can monitor growth and work with parents to create a plan to help their child reach his or her maximum potential.

All questions on the interim assessments are developed in collaboration with Texas teachers and are fully aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills—or TEKS—which means that they measure what a student is expected to learn at each grade.

Interim assessments are adaptive for some subjects. This means that based on previous answers, students are routed to one of three levels for their second set of questions creating a shorter test and an accurate view of where a student stands academically.

While the tests don't tell the full story, they are a valuable tool that help teachers identify gaps in student understanding using specific data that is useful with instruction and in conversations with parents. STAAR Interim Assessments are a great teacher resource in helping to develop a student's full academic potential!

Transcript

