

# Understanding the New Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2015

San Antonio ISD

Research & Evaluation



# New STAAR Exams for 2011-2012

- In the 2011-12 school year, the Texas Education Agency(TEA) will be launching **STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness)** which will begin replacing the current TAKS test and will include new graduation requirements for the Class of 2015.
- STAAR will assess the same standards in a deeper, more rigorous way.
   SAISD continues to focus on preparing our students and teachers to be successful during this transition.
- Students in grades 3-8 will take the same subject tests for each grade level:

Grades	Subject
3-8	Mathematics
3-8	Reading
4 and 7	Writing
5 and 8	Science
8	Social Studies

- Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2011-12 will take STAAR/EOC (End of Course).
- Currently enrolled high school students will continue to take TAKS.



# What were the old graduation requirements?

Students had to earn the **credits** required for their graduation plan and pass all **four exit-level TAKS tests**.

#### **Credits**

- Three graduation plans:
  - Minimum (22 credits)
  - Recommended(26 credits)
  - Distinguished (26 credits)

#### **Assessments**

- Students must meet the passing standard set for each of the four Exit-Level assessments:
  - Reading/ELA
  - Math
  - Science
  - Social Studies



# What are the new graduation requirements?

Students need to earn the **credits** required for their graduation plan, meet a **Total Score Requirement** for the End of Course exams in four subject areas, and **meet the Passing Standard for two tests**: English III and Algebra II (for Recommended and Distinguished diplomas).

#### **Credits**

- Three graduation plans:
  - Minimum (22 credits)
  - Recommended(26 credits)
  - Distinguished (26 credits)

Note: The number of credits needed for each plan has not changed.

#### **Assessments**

- Students must take 8 to 12 End of Course (EOC) exams
- EOC test results must be included as 15% of the student's final grade for the course
- Each of the four subject areas has a Total Score Requirement

Reading/ELA Math
Social Studies Science

 Additional Passing Standards for English III and Algebra II (Recommended and Distinguished diplomas)



# Who will be affected by the new requirements?

Grade	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	EOC	EOC	EOC	EOC
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	TAKS	EOC	EOC	EOC
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	TAKS	TAKS	EOC	EOC
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	TAKS*	TAKS*	TAKS*	EOC

<sup>\*</sup>Students have opportunity to Retest on Exit-Level TAKS in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade, if necessary.

- Students that enter Grade 9 for the first time in 2011-12, will take the End of Course (EOC) exams in the Spring of 2012. Each year students will have three opportunities to take the EOC tests, with the right to retest as often as they wish to do so.
- Currently enrolled high school students will graduate under TAKS until it is phased out in the 2014-15 school year.



# What courses will require an EOC test?

Grade	Math	English	Science	Social Studies
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Algebra I	English I	Biology	World Geography
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Geometry	English II	Chemistry	World History
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Algebra II	English III	Physics	U.S. History

There will be three levels of scores for each test:

Level 1 = Minimum Score

Level 2 = Passing Standard

Level 3 = College Ready

**Students do not have to meet the Passing Standard for each exam.** However, they must achieve the minimum score in order for it to count towards their total score. If a student does not achieve the minimum score, they must retake the test.



# What is the Total Score Requirement?

- For <u>each subject</u>, adding the score for all three tests must be equal to or greater than the passing standard times the number of tests.
- The actual standards have not been determined yet. TEA is in the process of development for 2011-12.
- For example, if 1000 was determined as the passing standard, a student would have to get a total score of 3000 to meet the Total Score Requirement.
- The following chart shows one way a student could meet the Total Score Requirement for Math.

Math EOC	Score
Algebra I	900
Geometry	1100
Algebra II	1000
Total	3000



# What are the Additional Passing Standards?

#### • Recommended Diploma:

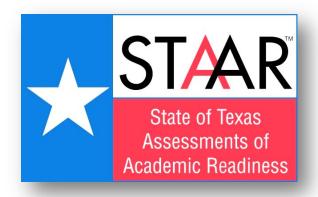
- Total Score Requirement for all 12 EOC exams
- Level 2 (Passing Standard) for Algebra II & English III

#### Distinguished Diploma:

- Total Score Requirement for all 12 EOC exams
- Level 3 (College Ready) for Algebra II & English III

#### • Minimum Diploma:

- Total Score Requirement for each subject taken (8 to 12 tests)
- Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics are NOT required
- Either World Geography or World History must be included



# Questions and Answers



#### 1. What happens if my child has trouble with one subject and cannot pass?

- If a student does not achieve the minimum score (Level 1) on each test, the student must retake the assessment.
- A student's total score must equal the sum of passing standard times the number of tests. It is possible to meet minimum score on one or more assessments and still meet the Total Score Requirement.

Math EOC	Score
Algebra I	900
Geometry	1100
Algebra II	1000
Total	3000

- A student may decide which tests to retake, even after passing.
  - Only the highest scores will be included.
  - □ A very good score on one test can make up for a lower score on another.



#### 2. Can a student fail the EOC and earn credit for the course?

- The EOC must be included as 15% of the final grade.
  - If the student's grade is high enough, the student can fail the EOC but pass the course and earn credit.
  - □ For example, if a student has a final grade of 75 but fails the EOC at 50%, the final grade would be 71, which is a passing grade.
- For graduation requirements the student will have to retest.

#### 3. Will retesting affect the grade for the course?

 The district will determine before next year if retest opportunities will affect the final grade from a previous year's course.



#### 4. What should 8th grade students in Algebra I do?

- MS students taking HS courses prior to 2012:
  - Results will NOT count towards Total Score or Graduation requirements.
  - Students have the option to re-test to try to improve their Total Score Requirement.
  - If a student takes the same EOC test more than once, only the highest score will be used to calculate the Total Score Requirement.
- MS students taking HS courses in <u>2012 and beyond</u>:
  - Students will take EOC when they finish the course.
  - Results will be included in the student's Total Score Requirement.
  - Students will still **probably** have to take grade-appropriate STAAR tests.
     (Pending final decision by TEA)

#### 5. What will students who enter later in high school do?

 Students who have earned credit in a course with an EOC will not have to take the STAAR EOC for that course. Their Total Score Requirement will be decreased.



# 6. My child will be repeating the 9<sup>th</sup> grade – or - my child will be going from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Do the new standards apply?

 No. Only first-time 9<sup>th</sup> graders for the school year 2011-2012 will fall under the new graduation requirements. Students enrolled in 10<sup>th</sup> grade or higher for next school year will be under the old graduation requirements.

#### 7. What options will Special Education students have?

- TEA is eliminating the separate accommodated form and building in specific accommodations to the general STAAR assessments for these students.
- STAAR Modified and STAAR Alternate will be options for most courses, but not all higher level courses.
- All students taking modified or alternative courses will be on a minimum plan.



#### 8. When can a student choose the Minimum High School Program?

- The student's parent or guardian and a school administrator must agree that the student should be permitted to take courses under the Minimum plan, and the student must meet at least one of the following conditions:
  - Be at least 16 years of age, or
  - Have completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum, or
  - Have failed to be promoted to Grade 10 one or more times as determined by the school district.

# 9. What are the consequences of graduating with a Minimum High School Program?

- Receiving a Minimum High School Program diploma may affect admission to a higher education institution.
- Students with a Minimum High School Program diploma are not eligible to apply for some financial aid programs, grants or scholarships.