



# Caldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated ISD

Creating Opportunities for ALL...

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April 1, 2023

Greetings Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD Parent(s) & Guardian(s),

It's STAAR time! Let's prepare for lift-off as STAAR administration season is fast approaching! The STAAR Program STAAR is a standardized academic achievement test designed to measure the extent to which a student has learned and is able to apply the defined knowledge and skills in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each tested grade, subject, and course. Every STAAR question is directly aligned to the TEKS currently in effect for the grade and subject or course being assessed. STAAR helps ensure that Texas students compete with other students nationally and internationally. Another important function of STAAR is gauging how well schools and teachers prepare their students academically. In addition, STAAR fulfills the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which requires that all students be assessed in specific grades and subjects throughout their academic careers.

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) is the state assessment program that began in the spring of 2012, which includes annual assessments for:

**Reading Language Arts and Mathematics, Grades 3-8**

**Science in Grades 5 and 8**

**Social Studies in Grade 8**

**End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History**

**\*This year, all STAAR/STAAR EOCs will be administered online.**

**\*Texas' student assessment program is designed to measure the extent to which a student has learned and is able to apply the defined knowledge and skills at each tested grade or course level.**

The STAAR program focuses on student readiness for success in subsequent grades and courses and, ultimately, for college and a career. The first round of STAAR testing for the 2022-2023 school year will begin on Tuesday, April 25, which is just a few weeks away. This date marks the beginning of the official state testing period, which runs through Tuesday, May 9, excluding make-up test dates. **\*Please see the attached 2022-2023 COCISD State Assessment Schedule outlined by the campus below.**

Every question that appears on the STAAR is grounded in the knowledge and skills statements and student expectations within the state-mandated curriculum, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Please note that every year the STAAR tests may represent varying combinations of TEKS student expectations, which is why COCISD teachers teach the entire curriculum so students can develop a complete understanding of the curriculum content.

Furthermore, in COCISD we expect our students to do exceedingly well on these assessments! Throughout the academic year, our teachers have utilized rigorous and relevant instructional methods geared towards equipping our students with the depth of knowledge and critical thinking skills required to meet and surpass the achievement standards set forth for each tested subject area. For reference purposes, I have noted some helpful test-taking tips and attached the STAAR assessment calendar. Thanks for all of your continued support!

With gratitude and appreciation,

Bryan T. Taulton, Ed.D.

### **Parent/Guardian Information: Helpful Test-taking Tips**

**COCISD faculty & staff members have been working diligently with your child to ensure that he/she is adequately prepared to perform exceedingly well on the STAAR/STAAR EOC tests. To promote positive performance and maintain a testing environment that is free of distractions, please adhere to the following:**

***\*Please be mindful that on all state assessment days, Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD campuses will be inaccessible to visitors for the duration of the test administration due to testing restrictions. Accordingly, outside and/or parent lunch deliveries will not be allowed on test days for students.***

- All COCISD schools will be closed to visitors on all state testing days. If contacting your child is necessary, please call the campus directly at 936.653.1115. Please try to avoid early dismissals for personal reasons.
- Students should arrive at school on time (by 7:40 A.M.) to get to their designated testing room for a smooth testing day.
- On all test days, students may bring a sack lunch from home or go through the lunch line for a hot tray lunch during the normal lunch period. Some students may receive a sack lunch from the cafeteria on testing days.
- Students should get plenty of rest the night before taking all STAAR/STAAR EOC test(s).
- Students should eat a healthy breakfast to help them focus. Please stay away from food/drink items with too much sugar.
- Parents, unless your child is ill, it is imperative that he or she is present at school on all STAAR/STAAR EOC testing days.
- Students are encouraged to bring a book, novel, or magazine to read once he/she is finished testing.
- Students should dress comfortably (within the COCISD Dress Code): Dressing in layers, allows students to remove a layer of clothing to adjust to the temperature in the testing room. Hoodies are allowed, but blankets of any kind are not. Thus, blankets should be left at home.
- Students should take medications and wear glasses or contacts as prescribed by their doctor.

Please contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding these expectations. Thanks for your continued support!

**Contacts:**

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