

STAAR Alternate 2: Instructional Decision-Making Guides

Region 4, in collaboration with ESCs 3, 9, 11, 12, and 20 and with permission from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), created a series of TEKS-based, instructional decision-making guides (guides) for educators working with students on alternate academic standards (prerequisite skills that are linked and/or aligned with grade-level standards). The guides are provided for the subjects and grades assessed with the STAAR Alternate 2 (see chart 1 below).

Chart 1

Grade	Subjects				
3	Math	Reading			
4	Math	Reading	Writing		
5	Math	Reading		Science	
6	Math	Reading			
7	Math	Reading	Writing		
8	Math	Reading		Science	Social Studies
High School	Algebra I	English I English II		Biology	US History

The guides were developed to cluster **prerequisite skills** (within an essence statement) and combine several aspects of the State's Vertical Alignment and Curriculum Framework documents for greater ease in selecting instructional targets. A separate guide was created for each essence statement (even those not assessed in a given year) in math, reading, writing, science, and social studies. Educators will want to examine the current year's

essence statements to be sure they are instructing in all of the essence statements to be assessed within a particular school year.

Essence Statement Documents

Separate guides were created for subject-area **process skills** and **standards** that are to be incorporated into assessment tasks in all or most of the reporting categories and related prerequisite skills. In one subject the guide is a combined document; in several other subjects there are separate guides for each grade within that subject due to either varied process skills or standards in each grade level. In other subjects, there are no guides because there are no separate process skills or standards within the Curriculum Framework documents (See chart 2 below.).

Chart 2

	Math	Reading	Writing	Science	Social Studies
Process Skills Guides	Combined	None	None	5th, 8th, and biology	None
Standards Guides	None	None	None	None	8th and US history

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