

April 6, 2021

Subject: Technical Difficulties with the April 2021 STAAR Online Tests

To the ESC and District Testing Coordinator Addressed:

The purpose of this communication is to provide additional information related to the online testing issue that occurred on April 6, 2021 during the administration of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) grade 4 writing, grade 7 writing, and English I online tests.

As of the time this communication is sent, districts can plan to resume online testing the morning of April 7, 2021. TEA will notify districts before 5:00 a.m. (CT) on April 7<sup>th</sup> if the situation changes. For the foreseeable future, the dictionary functionality in the online platform will be disabled. Please make handheld dictionaries available for students to use during testing. TEA will c i 0. 28.6[4 Tm (th5]1d) 0 Td ( ) at ad T

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### Frequently Asked Questions

1. When can students resume online testing?  
Based on the flexibility already built into the online testing window, students impacted by the online testing disruption may resume online testing at any time during the five weeks scheduled for the April administration.
2. Can students testing online be switched to a paper test?  
Yes, students who were scheduled to test online who began testing or who have not yet begun their online test may be moved to a paper test. However, it is recommended that students who have started their online test continue with their test online to avoid transcribing any answers that the student recorded in the online system. In addition, students who require specific accommodations that are provided online should continue to test online.

For students who started the online test and then are moved to a paper test, their online test should be marked as Do Not Report. For students who have not started the online test but are moved to a paper test, their online tests will be automatically voided at the close of the online testing window unless a score code is applied.

3. What should we do with online tests for students who are not able to complete the test?

Yes, whether students began their test or had not yet begun the test, they may use the same test ticket that was issued for April 6<sup>th</sup>. No new test tickets are required for any students who resume testing or are moved to a test session later in the testing window.

5. Will students be able to resume testing where they left off and will their answers be saved?  
Yes, students' answers that have been entered into the online system will be saved. This includes partial written responses that the student began (even if the student resumes testing in a different week within the five-week window). In addition, the questions previously responded to by students on April 6<sup>th</sup> will not be locked when students resume testing.
6. For students who resume testing, will the testing time start over?