

STAAR State Assessments “Non-Participation” Opt Out Letter

This form can be used in lieu of a parent/guardian letter. If you are virtual, no letter is required. You may want to use a separate letter for each STAAR assessment and a separate letter for each child you have enrolled in school.

Child’s Teacher _____
Principal of School _____
Name of School _____
Name of Student _____

Dear Principal and Teacher/Counselor,

Thank you for educating my child. The Texas Education Commissioner has said that virtual students do not have to take STAAR this year due to COVID. I am applying my rights as a parent under Tex. Education Code §26.010 and opting my child out of STAAR this year who is attending school in-person [or virtually.]

This letter is to inform you that pursuant to Tex. Education Code §26.010 and the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution, I am removing my child from participation in the 2021 STAAR on the date(s) you administer the STAAR assessment and any makeup administrations of the STAAR assessment for spring/summer 2021. His/her participation in the STAAR assessment process conflicts with my [religious or] moral beliefs.

I am also informing you to cease any further efforts to encourage my child to take the STAAR this year. I have already received numerous calls for my child to take the STAAR assessment and I respectfully ask that you stop.

I have taken this action after careful consideration of the negative effects of the STAAR assessment¹ process and for the protection of the mental and physical well-being of my child, and with a full understanding of the potential consequences of this decision.

This year STAAR will not count for promotion in grades 3-8 and there will be no state accountability ratings in any Texas schools. My child will complete work asynchronously on STAAR dates so as to continue learning and to be counted as present for attendance purposes as determined by TEA’s COVID attendance guidelines..

For high school students, STAAR is still required in order to graduate. I am aware that my high school child will be able to test in December and May next year and can use a combination of substitute assessments, their spring 2020 COVID STAAR waiver and/or the individual graduation committee to meet their high school graduation requirements.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____

¹ The STAAR instruments are not referred to in the Education Code as tests. Rather, they are consistently referred to as “assessment instruments.” See, e.g., Tex. Educ. Code ch. 39.