

Training on Linguistic Accommodations for the STAAR[®] Program

TEA Student Assessment Division

January 2015

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Topics

- Overview
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR (3–8 paper; EOC online and paper) and STAAR L online administrations
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR L paper administrations
- Linguistic accommodations for students taking STAAR A online and paper administrations

Linguistic Accommodation Guide

Linguistic Accommodations for ELLs Participating in the STAAR Program

- Linguistic accommodation guide is principal source of linguistic accommodation information for testing personnel
- **Coordinators and test administrators should read and review the contents of this guide carefully**
- Available at

<http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/accommodations/>

Allowable Linguistic Accommodations for ELLs

	STAAR (English)	STAAR L	STAAR A
Mathematics Science Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bilingual dictionary ▪ Extra time (same day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bilingual dictionary ▪ Extra time (same day) ▪ (Clarification in English of word meaning and reading aloud of text are provided in the online interface for all students taking STAAR L)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bilingual dictionary ▪ Extra time (same day) ▪ Clarification in English of word meaning
Reading Writing	<p><i>Reading and Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dictionaries of various types* ▪ Extra time (same day) <p><i>Writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarification in English of word meaning in writing prompts 	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dictionaries of various types* ▪ Extra time (same day) ▪ Clarification in English of word meaning
English I English II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dictionaries of various types* ▪ Extra time (same day) ▪ Clarification in English of word meaning in short answer questions and writing prompts 	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extra time (same day) ▪ Clarification in English of word meaning

When providing linguistic accommodations to students, test administrators may not provide any direct or indirect assistance or reinforcement that aids a student in identifying a correct response to the test question.

The background features a pattern of thin, vertical, light green lines on a grey gradient. A thick horizontal bar, transitioning from brown on the left to white on the right, spans across the middle of the image. Below this bar is a solid dark green horizontal band.

Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR (3–8 paper; EOC paper and online) and STAAR L online administrations

Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	Reading, Writing, English I, English II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual dictionary • Extra time (same day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 3–5: Dictionaries of various types* • Extra time (same day) • Clarification in English of meaning of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words in writing prompt (applies to all assessments listed above) • words in short answer reading questions (English I-II only)

***Dictionary access to be provided for all students in grade 6 and up as part of STAAR dictionary policy**

Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR L

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

- Clarification in English of word meaning*
- Reading aloud of text*
- Bilingual dictionary
- Extra time (same day)

***Provided in online interface**

Dictionaries as a Linguistic Accommodation

- **Four categories:**
 - Bilingual dictionary
 - English/ESL dictionary
 - Non-English monolingual dictionary
 - Picture dictionary

Bilingual Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR and STAAR L (any subject)**
- **Considered a linguistic accommodation for**
 - mathematics, science, social studies (all grades)
 - grades 3–5 reading and grade 4 writing
- **Used to translate words (and sometimes common phrases) from one language to another**
- **May include pictures as long as pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts**

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy (and not considered a linguistic accommodation)

English/ESL Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only; not other STAAR subjects; not STAAR L**
- Considered a linguistic accommodation below grade 6
- Unlike bilingual dictionaries, English dictionaries contain definitions of English words
- ESL dictionaries define words using simpler English
- Some dictionaries (e.g., children's dictionaries, ESL dictionaries) include some pictures

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy (and not considered a linguistic accommodation)

Non-English Monolingual Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only**
- **Considered a linguistic accommodation in grade 3 and up**
- **Single-language standard (definition) dictionary in a language other than English (e.g., dictionary of Spanish language; dictionary of Vietnamese language)**

Picture Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR reading and writing only**
- Linguistic accommodation in grade 3 and up
- Conveys word meaning through drawings or photos; includes only words that can be pictured
- May be monolingual, bilingual, or multilingual (may show picture plus word in one language or more than one language)

Dictionary

Allowable and Nonallowable Formats

Within four categories of allowable dictionaries, keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Paper and electronic dictionary formats (including hand-held electronic devices) are permitted
- Electronic devices:
 - must not be Internet-based (it is not sufficient to disable Internet)
 - any features that allow entering and saving text or uploading files must be cleared before and after test administration
 - if device has additional capabilities (e.g. calculator) that cannot be disabled, the test administrator must actively monitor to ensure that these features are not accessed

Dictionaries

Allowable and Nonallowable Formats

- Subject-specific/topic-specific dictionaries (e.g., science dictionaries, academic language dictionaries, etc.) are not permitted
- Bilingual, ESL, and standard monolingual dictionaries that contain occasional pictures are acceptable as long as the pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts
- Electronic devices that translate beyond the level of words and set phrases are not considered bilingual dictionaries and are not permitted
- Only dictionaries by reputable dictionary publishing companies should be used (no dictionaries produced by school districts, service centers, etc.)

Extra Time (Same Day)

- **Allowable for STAAR and STAAR L all subjects and courses**
- Enables ELL to have extra time within regularly scheduled school day to complete assessment
- Does not mean ELL must take all day; means student may have additional time needed within school day
- Not automatically allowed for all ELLs

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Writing Prompts

- **Allowable for STAAR writing: grades 4, 7, English I-II**
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words and phrases on writing prompt page
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures
- Test administrator is not permitted to reinforce or emphasize any information on prompt page or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of composition

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Example 1: Grade 7 Writing (Expository)

Clarification of Word Meaning in Writing Prompt

READ the following quotation.

A famous businessman once said, "Players win games; teams win championships."

THINK carefully about the following statement.

Sometimes you can accomplish good things by yourself but better things with other people.

WRITE an essay explaining whether it is better to work by yourself or with a group.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Short Answer Reading Questions

- **Allowable for STAAR English I-II**
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words/phrases in short answer questions
- Before providing clarification, test administrator should ask whether student has looked up word in dictionary; clarification can be provided to students who still need assistance after using dictionary
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures
- Test administrator is not permitted to reinforce or emphasize any part of information or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of response
- Clarification is not permitted for
 - language arts terms
 - words/phrases that are part of selection title
 - words/phrases that are quoted from selection

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Example 2: English I

Clarification of Word Meaning in Short Answer Reading Questions

In this excerpt from *Anne of Green Gables*, do you think the stage directions enhance your understanding of the scene? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from the selection.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning and Reading Aloud of Text

For STAAR L only

- Both clarification in English of word meaning and reading aloud of text are provided for all students in the online interface.

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Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR L Paper Administrations

STAAR L Paper Administrations

Training Test Administrators

- In addition to receiving training on general test administration procedures and test security, test administrators need to be trained in testing procedures specific to STAAR L paper administrations.
- Test administrators who provide clarification of word meaning should be —
 - familiar with the subject matter assessed and linguistic needs of the students, and
 - work routinely with the students in assisting with or delivering instruction.

STAAR L Paper Administrations

Training Test Administrators

- Use sample ECG instructions page to familiarize test administrators with using an ECG.
- Sample ECG found on STAAR L Resources page at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ell/staarl/>; also available in STAAR L Supplement for Paper Administrations.
- Remember, ECGs are for test administrator use only and should not be distributed to students.

STAAR L Paper Administrations

Recording Accommodations

- Test administrators must indicate in the “Linguistic Accommodations” drop-down menu on the Student Test Details screen that a linguistic accommodation, documented by the LPAC, was made available to a student, even if the student did not use the accommodation during testing.

STAAR L Paper Administration

Dictionaries and Extra time (same day)

- As with online administrations of STAAR L, students testing on paper may be eligible to use a bilingual dictionary and/or extra time.
- See slides #11 and #17 in this PowerPoint for more information on these linguistic accommodations.

STAAR L Paper Administration

Reading Aloud of Text

- **Mathematics, Science, Social Studies**
- Per student request only, test administrator may read aloud words, phrases, or occasional sentences in a test item
- Includes words in stem, question, answer choices, and any stimuli (e.g., map, diagram, etc.)
- Voice inflection must be kept neutral
- Numbers, symbols, and abbreviations can be read aloud as long as doing so does not invalidate what item is testing
- Voice inflection must be kept neutral
- Numbers, symbols, and abbreviations can be read aloud as long as doing so does not invalidate what item is testing

Reminder: For grade 3 mathematics, standard test administration procedure allows **all** grade 3 students to receive reading (decoding) assistance on this assessment.

STAAR L Paper Administration

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

- **Mathematics, Science, Social Studies**
- Per student request only, the test administrator may clarify the meaning of eligible words and phrases.
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures when clarifying meaning of eligible words or phrases

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

STAAR L Paper Administration

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

- **Mathematics, Science, Social Studies**
- Test administrator is **not** permitted to define, explain, or illustrate content terminology or concepts assessed
- Secure English Clarification Guide (ECG) provided for test administrators to use with this accommodation
 - Contains instructions and secure list of words in each test item that are not eligible for clarification
 - For test administrator use only; not for students

STAAR L Paper Administration

Item examples

Example 1:
U.S. History
EOC

Reading aloud
Bilingual dictionary



Which of the following does this 1937 political cartoon satirize?

- A** Congressional attempts to bypass the principle of separation of powers
- B** President Franklin D. Roosevelt's attempt to reorganize the Supreme Court
- C** President Franklin D. Roosevelt's refusal to cooperate with state governments
- D** Congressional attempts to undermine the principle of state sovereignty

Example 2: Grade 5 Mathematics

Reading Aloud

Ramón read $3\frac{7}{8}$ books that were on his reading list. Which of the following improper fractions is equivalent to $3\frac{7}{8}$?

A $\frac{29}{8}$

B $\frac{31}{8}$

C $\frac{24}{8}$

D $\frac{18}{8}$

Example 3: Grade 8 Mathematics

Clarification in English of word meaning

Reading aloud

Last week a certain brand of bottled water cost \$1.25 for a 16-ounce bottle. This week the water is on sale for \$1.00 for a 16-ounce bottle. What is the percent decrease in the price of this bottled water?

- A** 16%
- B** 13%
- C** 20%
- D** 25%

Test Item Number	Words Not Eligible for Clarification	Test Item Number	Words Not Eligible for Clarification
1	percent decrease	27	
2		28	
3		29	

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Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR A online and paper administrations

Linguistic Accommodations

STAAR A

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	Reading, Writing, English I, English II
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarification in English of word meaning• Bilingual dictionary• Extra time (same day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarification in English of word meaning• Dictionaries of various types (grades 3–5)*• Extra time (same day)

***Dictionary access to be provided for all students in grade 6 and up as part of STAAR dictionary policy**

Dictionaries

- **STAAR policies for the following accommodations also apply to STAAR A:**
 - Bilingual dictionary
 - English dictionary (standard or ESL)
 - Monolingual dictionary in languages other than English
 - Picture dictionary

Bilingual Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR A (any subject)**
- **Considered a linguistic accommodation for**
 - mathematics, science, social studies (all grades)
 - grades 3–5 reading and grade 4 writing
- **Used to translate words (and sometimes common phrases) from one language to another**
- **May include pictures as long as pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts**

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy (and not considered a linguistic accommodation)

English/ESL Dictionary

- **Allowable for STAAR A reading and writing only; not other STAAR A subjects**
- Considered a linguistic accommodation below grade 6
- Unlike bilingual dictionaries, English dictionaries contain definitions of English words
- ESL dictionaries define words using simpler English
- Some dictionaries (e.g., children's dictionaries, ESL dictionaries) include some pictures

Reminder: Allowed for grade 6 and up reading and writing as part of STAAR dictionary policy (and not considered a linguistic accommodation).

Non-English Monolingual Dictionary

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Dictionary

Allowable and Nonallowable Formats

Within four categories of allowable dictionaries, keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Paper and electronic dictionary formats (including hand-held electronic devices) are permitted
- Electronic devices:
 - must not be Internet-based (it is not sufficient to disable Internet)
 - any features that allow entering and saving text or uploading files must be cleared before and after test administration
 - if device has additional capabilities (e.g. calculator) that cannot be disabled, the test administrator must actively monitor to ensure that these features are not accessed

Dictionary

Allowable and Nonallowable Formats

- Subject-specific/topic-specific dictionaries (e.g., science dictionaries, academic language dictionaries, etc.) are **not** permitted
- Bilingual, ESL, and standard monolingual dictionaries that contain occasional pictures are acceptable as long as the pictures do not illustrate content terminology or concepts
- Electronic devices that translate beyond the level of words and set phrases are not considered bilingual dictionaries and are not permitted
- Only dictionaries by reputable dictionary publishing companies should be used (no dictionaries produced by school districts, service centers, etc.)

Extra Time (Same Day)

- **Allowable for STAAR A all subjects and courses**
- Enables ELL to have extra time within regularly scheduled school day to complete assessment
- Does not mean ELL must take all day; means student may have additional time needed within school day
- Not automatically allowed for all ELLs

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Test Items

- **Allowable for all STAAR A subjects/courses**
- Per student request only, the test administrator may clarify the meaning of eligible words and phrases.
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures when clarifying meaning of eligible words or phrases
- Test administrator is **not** permitted to define, explain, or illustrate content terminology or concepts assessed
- Clarification is allowed on multiple-choice items in reading and writing.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Test Items

- **Writing:** Test administrators must be careful not to clarify word meaning in a way that cues answers to items testing spelling, mechanics, and grammar.
 - Example: Test administrator is not permitted to clarify the meaning of tested words in item assessing homonyms.
- Test administrators are not permitted to clarify or otherwise explain content terminology or concepts, or provide any assistance that aids the student in finding a correct answer.

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Test Items

- Test administrators should be trained using the STAAR L example items for paper administrations (slides 32 and 34) as reference for the types of words that are not eligible for clarification. For mathematics, science, social studies no English Clarification Guides (ECGs) will be provided.

Example 1: Grade 5 Science

Clarification of Word Meaning in Test Questions *Bilingual Dictionary*

Which of the following events in the water cycle is an example of solar energy being absorbed?

- A** Water vapor condensing to form clouds
- B** Water evaporating from the surface of an ocean
- C** Rain freezing as it falls toward the ground
- D** Clouds releasing precipitation over a mountain

Example 2: U.S. History

Clarification of Word Meaning in Test Questions Bilingual Dictionary

How did the publication of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* contribute to a change in the relationship between government and business?

- A** Federal troops were mobilized to break strikes by labor unions.
- B** Government regulations requiring the inspection of food products were implemented.
- C** Congress created a regulatory agency to audit railroads.
- D** Laws were enacted that banned private companies from discriminating when hiring.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Reading and Writing Selections

- Per student request, test administrator may clarify meaning of **occasional** words and phrases in STAAR A reading and writing selections using simpler English, pictures and/or gestures.
- Test administrator is **not** permitted to clarify meaning of entire sentences or longer portions of text.
- Test administrator must not provide assistance that aids the student in determining correct answers to test questions.
- Test administrator is not permitted to read aloud the word being clarified if the word is not eligible to be read aloud (indicated by *Do Not Read* icon).

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Reading and Writing Selections

- **Reading selections:** Test administrator must not clarify the meaning of vocabulary, expressions, or other phrasing specifically assessed in a test question.
- **Writing selections:** Test administrator must not clarify meaning in a way that provides cues related to spelling, mechanics, or grammar. For example, if a student requests clarification of the meaning of the misspelled word **sugest** in an editing selection, the test administrator must not comment on the misspelling when clarifying the meaning

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Example 1: English II Revising Selection

Clarification of Word Meaning in Reading and Writing Selections

Bilingual Dictionary

Excerpt from “The Spark”

(16) Within a matter of days, we started to hear stories of others who had benefited from a spark of kindness. (17) The man whose fence we fixed told us how he helped another friend clean out her garage. (18) The kids in the after-school program made cards for the residents of a retirement center. (19) The elderly neighbor made cookies for a community bake sale. (20) And the single mom joined some fellow students who were spearheading a winter coat drive for the homeless.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Writing Prompts

- **Allowable for STAAR A writing: grades 4, 7, English I-II**
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words and phrases on writing prompt page
- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures
- Test administrator is not permitted to reinforce or emphasize any information on prompt page or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of composition

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Example 1:
Grade 7
Writing
Clarification of
Word Meaning in
Writing Prompt

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Personal Narrative

Look at the picture below.



Some activities are more enjoyable when you share them with other people.

Write a personal narrative about a time when you had fun participating in an activity with other people. Be sure to write about your experience in detail and describe why it was memorable.

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Short Answer Reading Questions

- **Allowable for STAAR A English I-II reading**
- Per student request only, test administrator may clarify meaning of words/phrases in short answer questions
- Before providing clarification, test administrator should ask whether student has looked up word in dictionary; clarification can be provided to students who still need assistance after using dictionary

Clarification in English of Word Meaning

Short Answer Reading Questions

- Test administrator may use simpler English, pictures, and/or gestures
- Test administrator is not permitted to reinforce or emphasize any part of information or assist with planning, organizing, or writing of response
- Clarification is not permitted for
 - language arts terms
 - words/phrases that are part of selection title
 - words/phrases that are quoted from selection

Note: When clarifying the meaning of words, test administrators may reference a dictionary and are not required to give definitions or explanations from memory.

Example 1: English I

Clarification of Word Meaning in Short Answer Reading Questions

What message do you think the speaker in “Sunday Morning Early” and the narrator of “I Wish I Was a Poet” are trying to convey? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from **both** selections.

Reading Aloud of Text

Test Items

- **Allowable for all STAAR A subjects/courses**
- Available for all students in online and paper versions of STAAR A
- **Reading and Writing:** Prereading text, revising selections, and reading and revising test questions and answer choices read aloud via computer-generated read aloud functionality
- **Mathematics, Science and Social Studies:** All questions and answer choices read aloud via computer-generated read aloud functionality

Reminder: For grade 3 mathematics, standard test administration procedure allows **all** grade 3 students to receive reading (decoding) assistance on this assessment.

For More Information

- This PowerPoint will be posted on the Accommodation Resources and STAAR L pages of the Student Assessment Division website at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/>
- If further assistance is needed, contact the TEA Student Assessment Division
 - (512) 463-9536
 - ell.tests@tea.texas.gov