



86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

STATE ASSESSMENT

Advocate for reduced emphasis on state-mandated testing, focusing on grades 3-8, monitor changes to STAAR for high school students, and encourage limits on benchmark testing for all tested grades.

BACKGROUND

- Texas PTA believes the purpose of testing should be to provide relevant feedback to teachers, parents, and students about students' acquisition of skills.
- State-mandated test results should be just one measure of student progress, not the only measure.
- Texas PTA is concerned about the emphasis on state-mandated tests to evaluate schools and school districts and to make determinations about promotion of individual students.
- Despite reductions in the number of tests administered in high school, the number of tests administered in grades 3-8 continues to remain high. Benchmark testing adds to the number of hours spent on testing and preparation for testing.
- Texas PTA supports reducing the number of state-mandated tests to those required by federal law.
 - Federal law requires that each child be tested every year in grades 3-8 in reading and math, and twice in science. Texas exceeds that number with two additional writing tests and one additional social studies test. In high school, federal law requires students to be tested once in three subjects: reading, math, and science. Texas exceeds that with an additional history and English test, and two incorporated writing tests.
- Texas PTA opposes tying student promotion decisions to a score on one state-mandated test.
- Texas PTA supports removing language in the law that requires an end to the Individual Graduation Committee system on September 1, 2019, so that students can continue to prove the acquisition of important skills by means other than a state test in certain narrow circumstances.