



NEWS

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March 29, 2016

Statement of Commissioner Morath regarding online STAAR administration issues

AUSTIN – Earlier today, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) became aware of technical issues in a number of districts related to the online administration of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®).

Some districts across the state reported to TEA and Educational Testing Service (ETS), the vendor administering STAAR statewide, that students' previously selected responses on an online test were not appearing. This would occur once a student logged back into their online test after either officially logging out, being timed out after 30 minutes of inactivity, or in situations where districts have temporarily lost connectivity to the Internet. Other issues have also been identified.

Commissioner of Education Mike Morath issued the following statement:

“The technical issues experienced today during the online administration of STAAR are simply unacceptable. Such issues undermine the hard work of our teachers and students. Kids in the classroom should never suffer from mistakes made by adults. Educational Testing Service is not new to administering assessments on a large-scale basis, so I cannot accept the transition to a new testing vendor as an excuse for what occurred. TEA also shares in the responsibility in the proper administration of these assessments. As an agency, we did not live up to that commitment. TEA will continue working with our school districts, charters and ETS to address these and any other outstanding issues.”

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