HB 8 UPDATE

WHAT'S COMING FOR RLA

NONE OF THIS CHANGES STAAR THIS YEAR · SST BEGINS 2027–28 · FIRST SST ESSAY APRIL 2028

THE "GATEKEEPER" ZERO IS GOING AWAY

STAAR — NOW THROUGH SPRING 2027

Score a **0** on Organization and Development of Ideas and the response automatically earns **0** on Conventions. This is still how your students are scored this year.

SST — BEGINNING SPRING 2028

That rule is **eliminated**. A student will earn the conventions point **even without a fully formed idea**. Zeros will be reserved for blank or nonsense responses.

TEA's reasoning: the gatekeeper was driving the number of zeros up. Removing it will give a better picture of what students know and can do — they will be able to show they can **write**.

THE SST RLA EOY WILL TAKE TWO TESTING DAYS

APRIL 1–15
WRITING DAY
The essay. TEA said it **anticipates the ECR only** that day — the design is not final.

→

MAY 1–30
EVERYTHING ELSE
The rest of the RLA EOY — reading plus revising and editing, all machine scored.

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ONE SCORE
REPORTED TOGETHER
Writing goes first so it can be scored in time to combine into a **single RLA result**.

Starting spring 2028. The essay will stay attached to a reading passage — TEA: we are **not going back to the old standalone prompt**, the passage is just shorter.

SST TESTING TIMES & HOW FAST DATA WILL COME BACK

DESIGNED TESTING TIMES

	BOY & MOY	EOY
Grades 3–4	**60 min**	**90 min**
Grades 5–8	**75 min**	**105 min**

Statute requires SST be **designed** so most students finish within these times. TEA has not published a hard stop-testing rule.

RESULTS TURNAROUND

- No later than **two business days** after a testing window closes.
- In **SST year two**, BOY and MOY will post results immediately when a student finishes.
- Teachers will reach them in a new dashboard inside the current CRS — **no new login**.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will SST tests match what I've actually taught by then?
There will be no state scope and sequence. Every SST assessment is **full scope**, so BOY and MOY can include TEKS you haven't taught yet.

Can we still give benchmarks?
Yes through 2026–27 — nothing changes this year. Starting 2027–28, grades other than 3–8 are capped at **two** before the EOY.

How fast will SST results come back?
No later than **two business days** after a window closes. In SST year two, BOY and MOY will report immediately.

Will BOY and MOY have an essay?
No. They will contain **no constructed-response items at all** — that is what keeps reporting fast.

Will I see my students' questions?
SST EOY questions will be released like STAAR. BOY and MOY are adaptive, so **those will never be released**.

Why is the ECR dropping from 10 points to 6?
TEA cut the SST blueprints by about a third, so the rubric goes **5 points to 3** and the essay keeps roughly its current share.

Will I still get reporting categories?
The draft SST blueprints say **subscores will not be reported** for the strands — shorter tests make them less reliable.

What happens to TIA?
SST will offer **transition tables** for grades 4–8 RLA and English I, plus data to calculate growth for grade 3 RLA.

Will growth be measured BOY to EOY?
Not yet. HB 8 requires TEA to build that measure and present it to the legislature **by 2029–30**.

Does English II still test this year?
Yes. First-time testers in 2026–27 must still take it. It ends with the **2027–28** school year.

WHAT'S COMING AND WHEN

SOON	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	WINTER 2026	SPRING 2027
Assessed curriculum	**Alternative assessment list**	**BOY/MOY policies & procedures**	**Next HB 8 FAQ update**	**Range PLDs for every SST test**

Heads up: The SST blueprints, rubrics, and score reports are all still marked **DRAFT**, and the April window design is not final. The last STAAR is spring 2027 for grades 3–8 and December 2027 for EOC — keep teaching the current STAAR rubric until then. Nothing above applies to this year's test.

Source: Texas Education Agency · HB 8 Student Assessment webinar, blueprints, rubrics & FAQ revised 8.20.2026 (tea.texas.gov)

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