

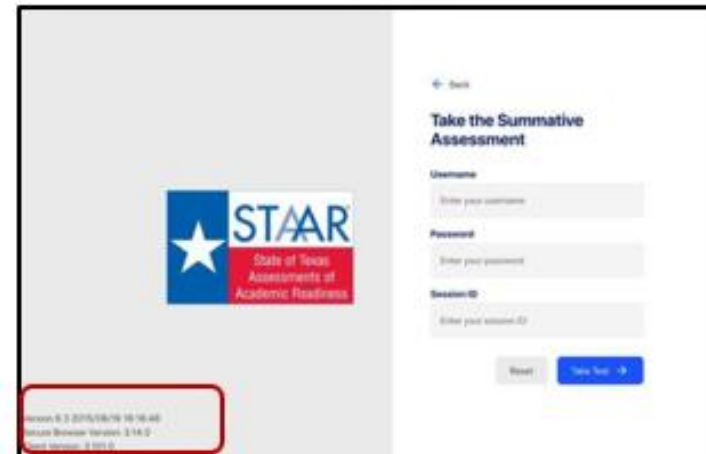
# STAAR Tutorials and Online Tool

Dallas ISD Adapted from ETS PPT *Online Testing Preparation for December 2019 and Overview of the STAAR Online Testing Platform*



# Secure Browser Installers and Versions

- Testing devices must have latest version to access the STAAR online tutorials, practice tests and 2019–2020 STAAR interim and summative assessments.
  - Current version 3.14.0 (Windows)
  - Current version 3.14.0 (MacOS)
  - Current version 3.14.0 (Linux)
  - Current iOS version is 2.75.0
- Secure Browser version is identified on test login page of the STAAR Online Testing Platform.
- The Secure Browser prevents students from accessing other computer or Internet applications or copying test information.
- **NOTE:** Launch the practice test on all devices used for testing prior to the administration to ensure you have the appropriate version of the Secure Browser.

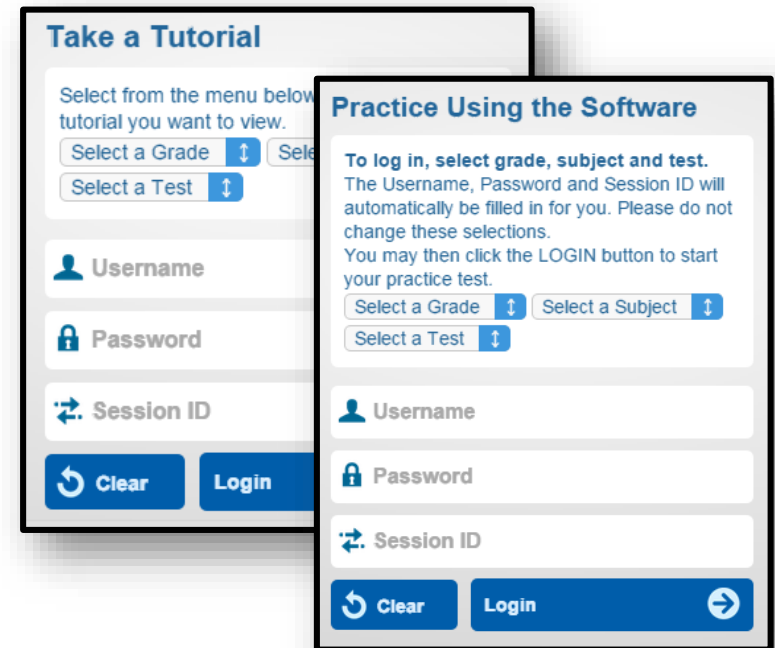
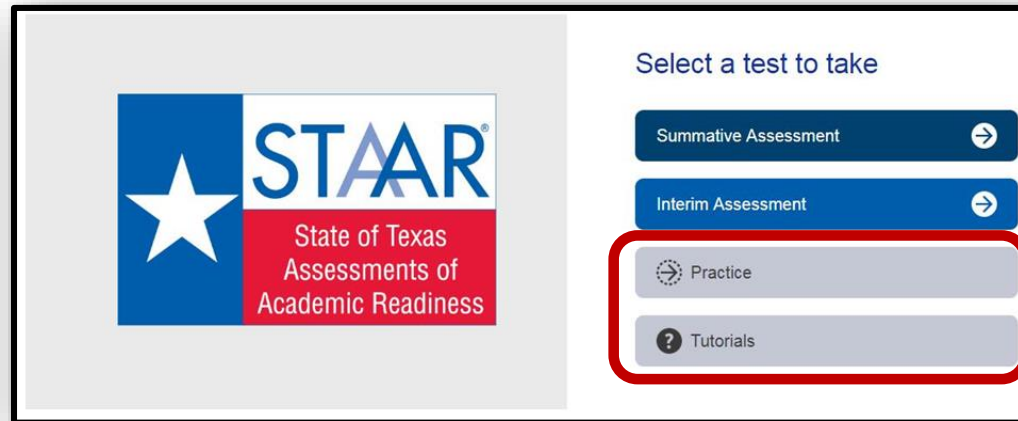


# STAAR Practice Tests and Tutorials



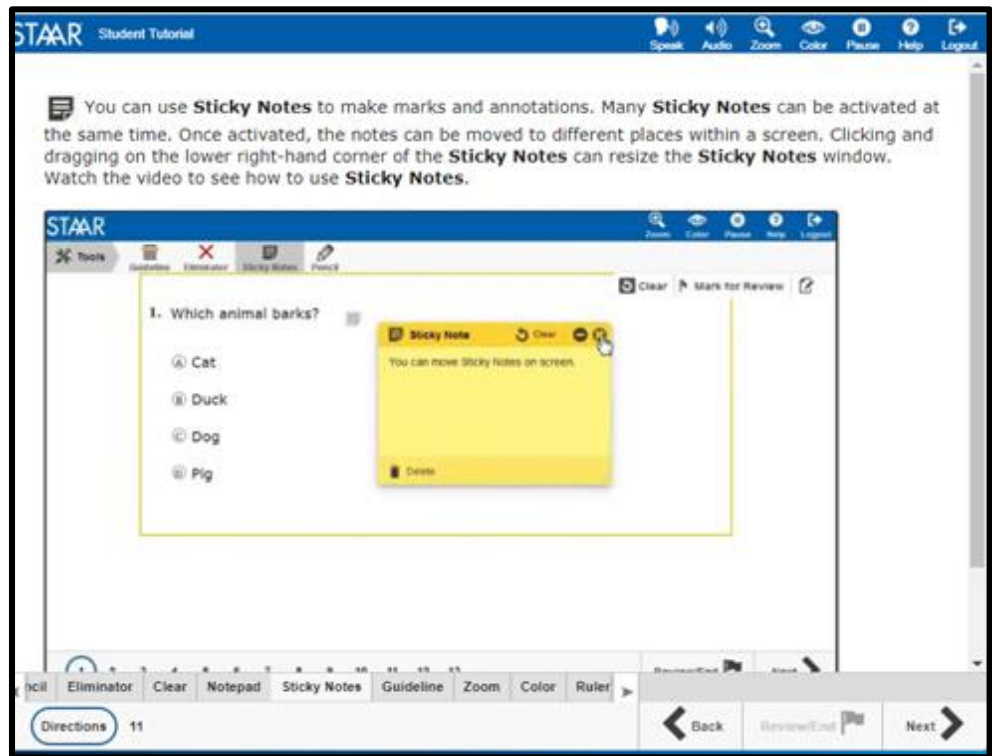
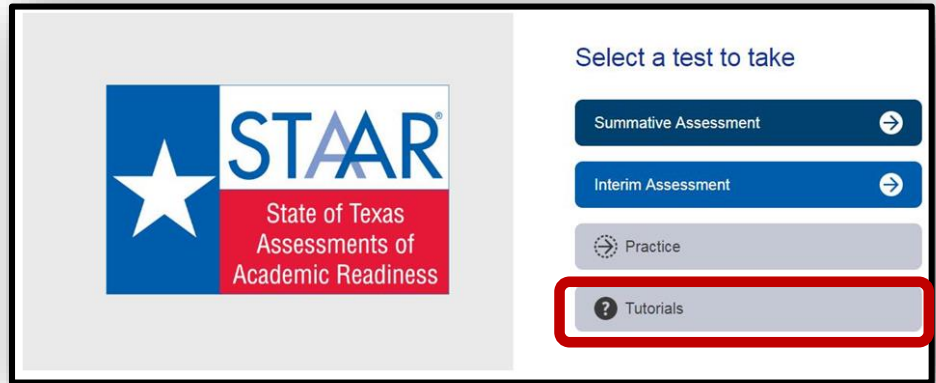
# Administer Tutorials and Practice Tests Prior to Test Day

- Practice tests and tutorials are available in the STAAR online testing platform throughout the year.
- They familiarize students and administrators with the online testing environment and available online tools.
- They confirm readiness of devices for online testing



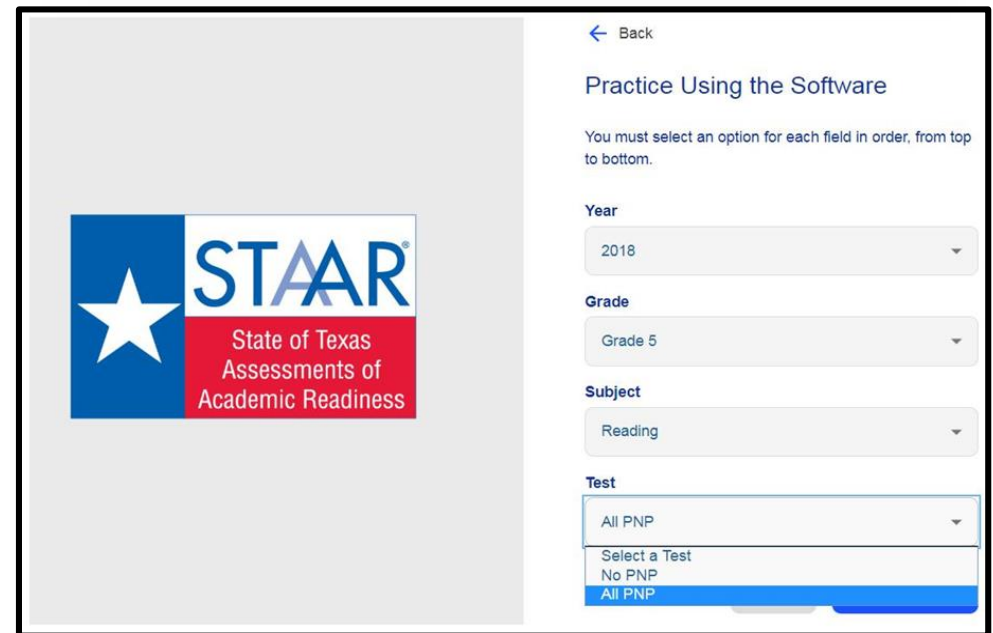
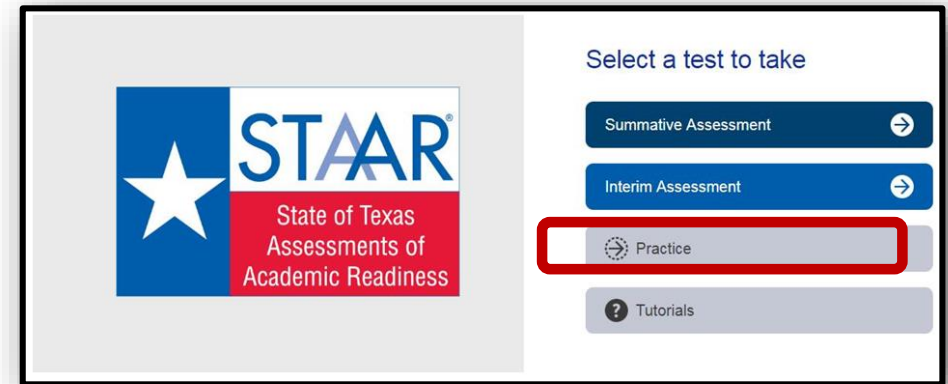
# STAAR Tutorials

- Each tab at the bottom of the screen contains a page explaining the online feature/tool in addition to a short video.
- The videos do not have sound except the Speak and Audio videos, which read aloud the text on the screen.
- The second page of each tab has a question to practice the feature/tool.
- The questions do NOT contain tested content and are intended to practice using the feature/tool.



# STAAR Practice Tests

- From the STAAR Online Testing Platform (SOTP), select “Practice.”
- The practice tests include released tests from previous years.
- All PNPs are available, including the following:
  - Text-to-Speech (when available)
  - Spelling Assistance (writing compositions only)
  - Content and Language Supports
  - Signed Videos (mini tests)
  - Refreshable Braille (mini tests)



# Online Features



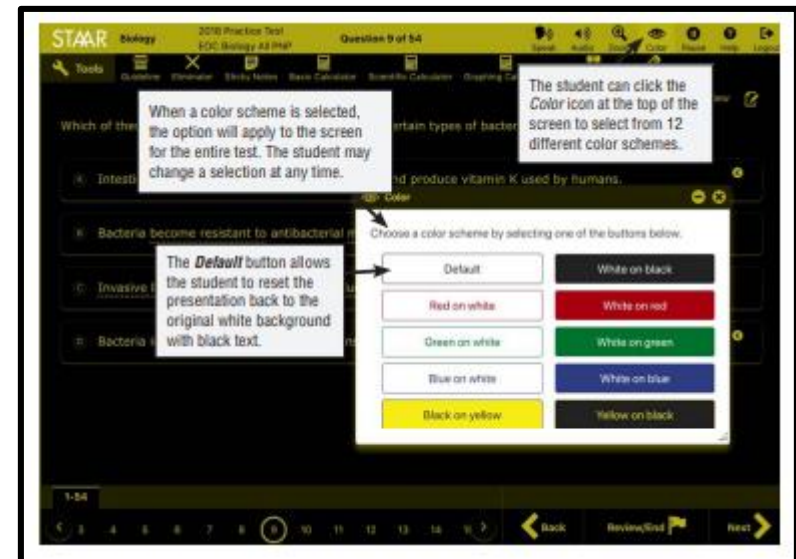
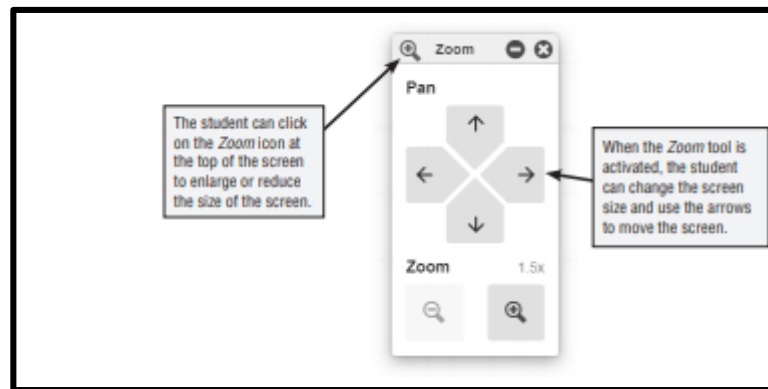
# Online Accessibility Features Available to All Students

- Accessibility features are available to all students taking STAAR and STAAR Spanish on paper or online. Some of these features are embedded in the online system, while others (e.g., individual administration, general reminders to stay on task) are not.
- The following accessibility features are automatically available on all STAAR assessments (i.e., mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies) and do not need to be activated in the online system. All are available in English and Spanish.



# Online Accessibility Features Available to All Students

- **Zoom**
  - Used to change the screen size and use the arrows to move the screen
- **Color Settings**
  - Used to change the color settings in the SOTP



# Online Accessibility Features Available to All Students

- Guideline Tool
  - Used to help students focus attention on specific lines of text
  - Works on any text-paragraphs, stand-alone items, etc.

The screenshot shows a digital reading interface with a toolbar at the top containing icons for Tools, Guideline, Eliminator, Sticky Notes, Dictionary, and Pencil. A callout box above the toolbar states: "The *Guideline* tool helps a student focus attention on specific lines of text." Below the toolbar, a text passage is displayed with a horizontal orange bar highlighting a specific line. A callout box on the left explains: "When the *Guideline* tool is activated, a tinted bar appears at the top of the screen. The student can move the bar up and down the selection." Another callout box points to the highlighted text: "If the student wants the guideline to remain on one line, the lock must be turned on (locked). The student must turn the lock off to move the guideline again." To the right of the passage, a question is shown: "2. Maggie wants to add another detail to help build the ideas in the second paragraph (sentences 8-12). Which of these could follow sentence 10 and add to the main idea of this paragraph?" Below the question are two answer choices: "A I wonder whether there are other things people find to do with rhino horns." and "B In parts of Asia, people believe that these horns can cure all kinds of diseases." A callout box on the right notes: "Passage-based tests have split screens and two guidelines." At the bottom of the interface, a navigation bar shows page numbers 1, 2-5, 6-9, 10-16, 17-25, with '2' selected. A "NOTE" box at the bottom states: "NOTE: On certain tablet devices, the guideline is locked as soon as it appears. Instead of moving the guideline, students scroll content through the guideline as they read."

# Online Accessibility Features Available to All Students

- Highlight tool
  - Used to highlight text

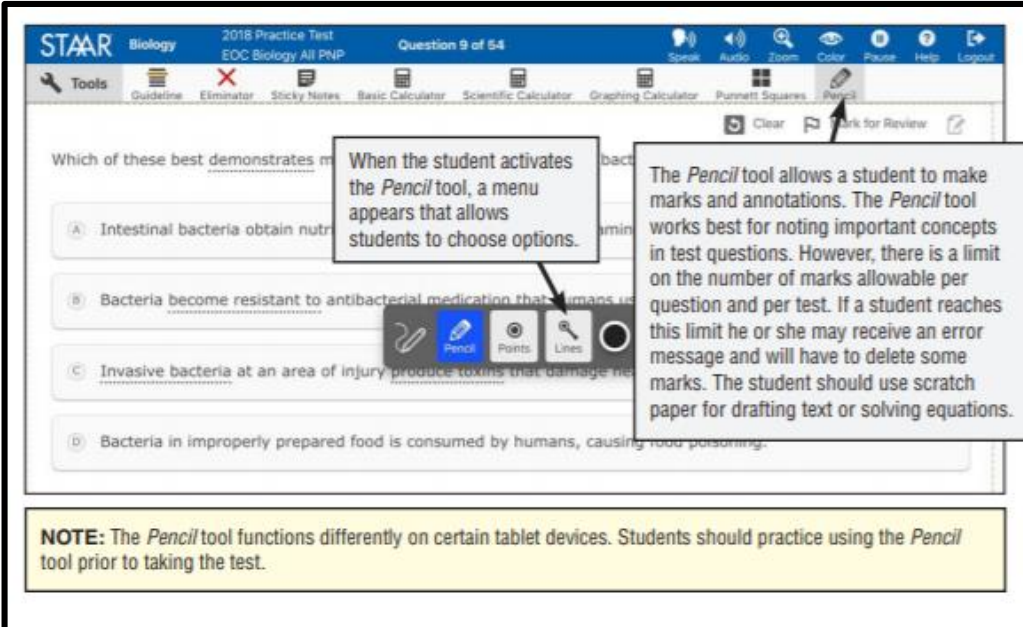
The screenshot shows the STAR Biology 2018 Practice Test interface. The question is: "Which of these best demonstrates mutualism between certain types of bacteria and humans?". The text "certain types" is highlighted in yellow. A "Highlight" menu is visible above the text, with options for "Highlight", "Erase Highlights", and "Speak".

To show the *Highlight* menu, the student will click and scroll with the mouse to select the text. Once specific text has been selected, the *Highlight* menu appears.

Clicking *Highlight* in the menu highlights the text. Clicking the highlighted text and choosing *Erase Highlights* removes the highlighting.

# Online Accessibility Features Available to All Students

- Pencil Tool
  - Used to make marks and annotations
  - Works on all parts of the test and on all platforms (e.g., graphics in test questions, not on graph paper, reference materials/sheets, pop-ups, etc.)

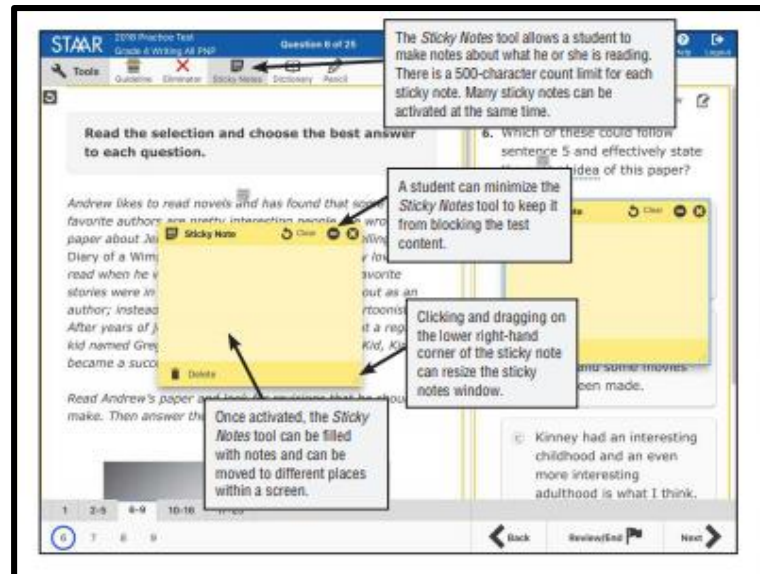


The screenshot shows the STAR Biology 2018 Practice Test interface. The top navigation bar includes "STAR Biology", "2018 Practice Test", "EOC Biology All PNP", and "Question 9 of 54". A toolbar contains various tools: Guideline, Eliminator, Sticky Notes, Basic Calculator, Scientific Calculator, Graphing Calculator, Punnett Squares, and Pencil. A callout box points to the Pencil tool icon, stating: "When the student activates the Pencil tool, a menu appears that allows students to choose options." Below this, a sub-menu is visible with icons for Pencil, Points, and Lines. Another callout box points to the Pencil icon in the sub-menu, stating: "The Pencil tool allows a student to make marks and annotations. The Pencil tool works best for noting important concepts in test questions. However, there is a limit on the number of marks allowable per question and per test. If a student reaches this limit he or she may receive an error message and will have to delete some marks. The student should use scratch paper for drafting text or solving equations." The main question asks: "Which of these best demonstrates m..." with four multiple-choice options (A, B, C, D) related to bacterial nutrition and antibiotic resistance. A yellow note box at the bottom states: "NOTE: The Pencil tool functions differently on certain tablet devices. Students should practice using the Pencil tool prior to taking the test."

**NOTE:** The *Pencil* tool functions differently on certain tablet devices. Students should practice using the *Pencil* tool prior to taking the test.

# Online Accessibility Features Available to All Students

- Sticky Notes
  - Used to make notes in the SOTP
  - 500-character count limit for each sticky note
  - Students may open a maximum of 15 sticky notes.



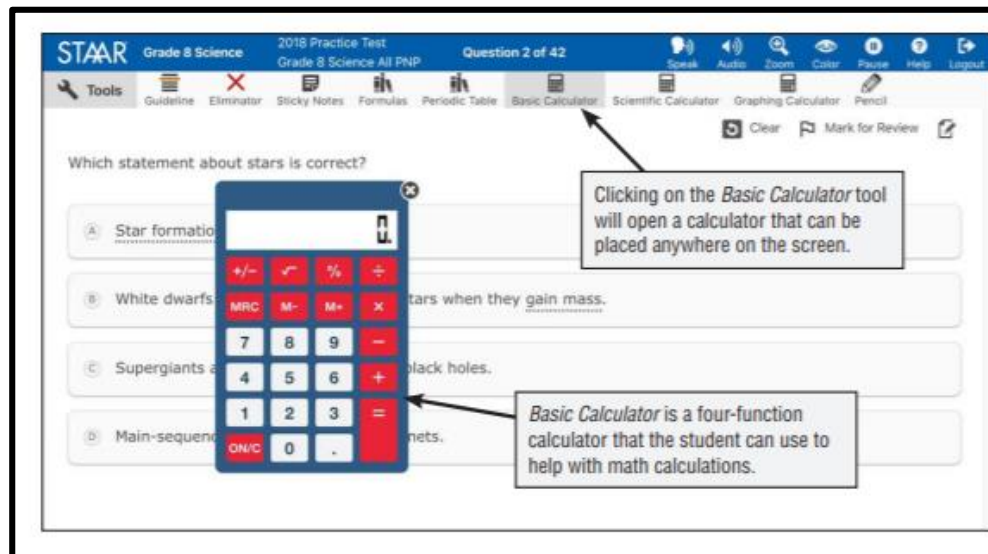
# Online Features – Designated Supports

## Designated Supports

- Includes district (local) or state (TEA) approved supports for students who meet eligibility criteria
- For designated supports requiring TEA approval, the appropriate team of people at the campus level determines whether the student meets all of the specific eligibility criteria and, if so, submits an Accommodation Request Form to TEA.
- Designated supports must be activated in the online system by selecting PNPs (Personal Needs Preferences) in the ETS system for each student.

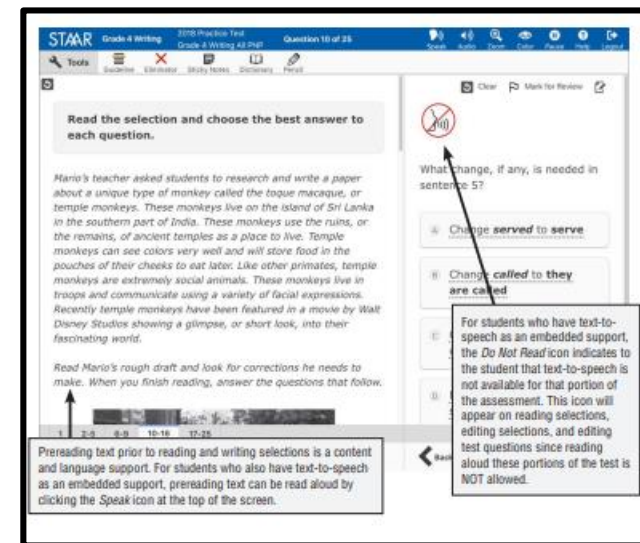
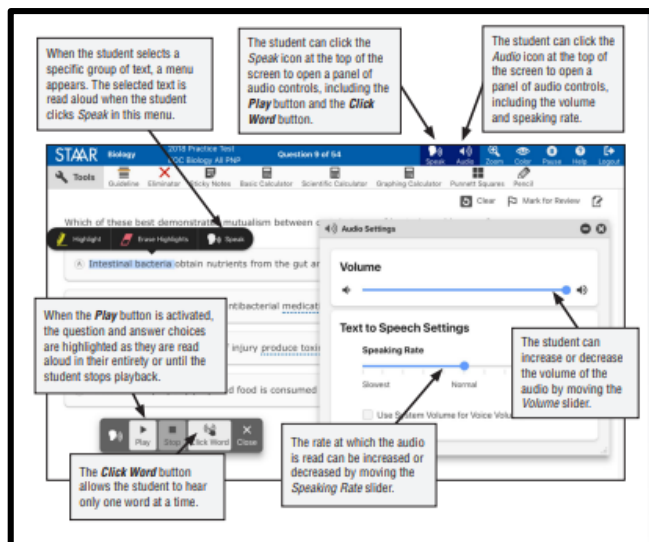
# Online Features – Designated Supports

- Basic Calculator (available in English and Spanish)
  - STAAR grades 3–7 mathematics and grade 5 Science
  - **NOTE:** calculators are not permitted for students taking the STAAR grades 3–7 mathematics assessments or the STAAR grade 5 science assessment unless the student meets the eligibility criteria.



# Online Features – Designated Supports

- Text-to-speech (Oral administration) -available in English and Spanish
  - Available on popups and rollovers
  - Includes click-word
  - **NOTE:** No part of the editing selections, test questions, and answer choices in a writing assessment (including the writing section of English I, English II, and English III) will be read by text-to-speech.





# Online Features – Designated Supports

- Signed Videos (available for tests delivered in English only)
  - Allows students to play, rewind, and fast forward signed videos
  - **NOTE:** No part of the editing selections, test questions, and answer choices in a writing assessment (including the writing section of English I, English II, and English III) will be signed.

Figure 10. Signed Videos (available in English)

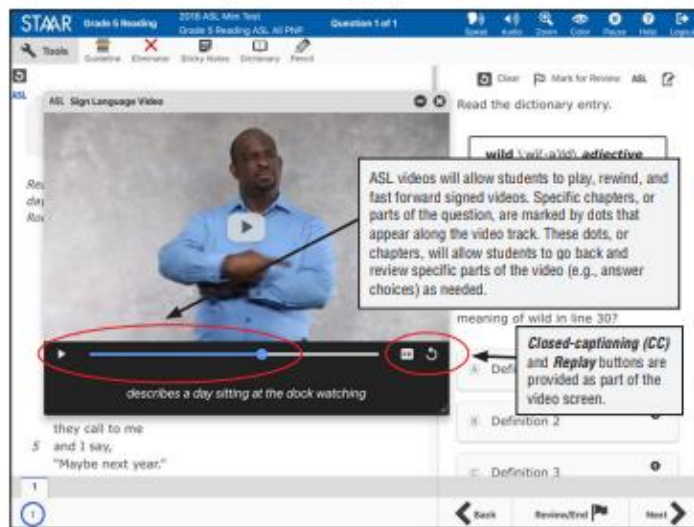
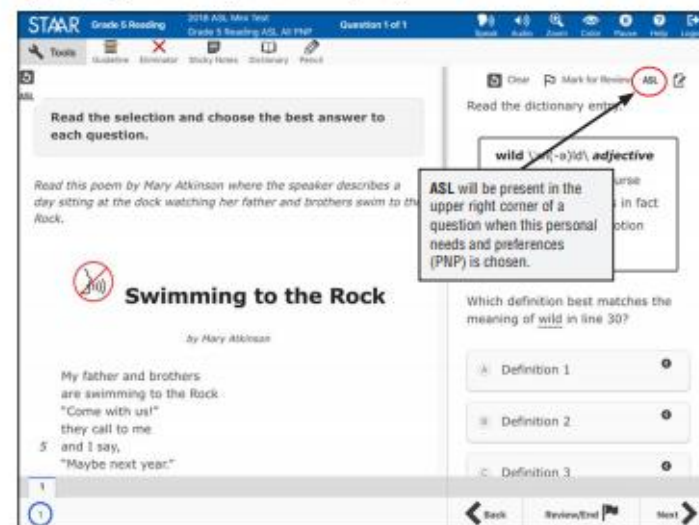


Figure 9. Signed Videos (available in English)

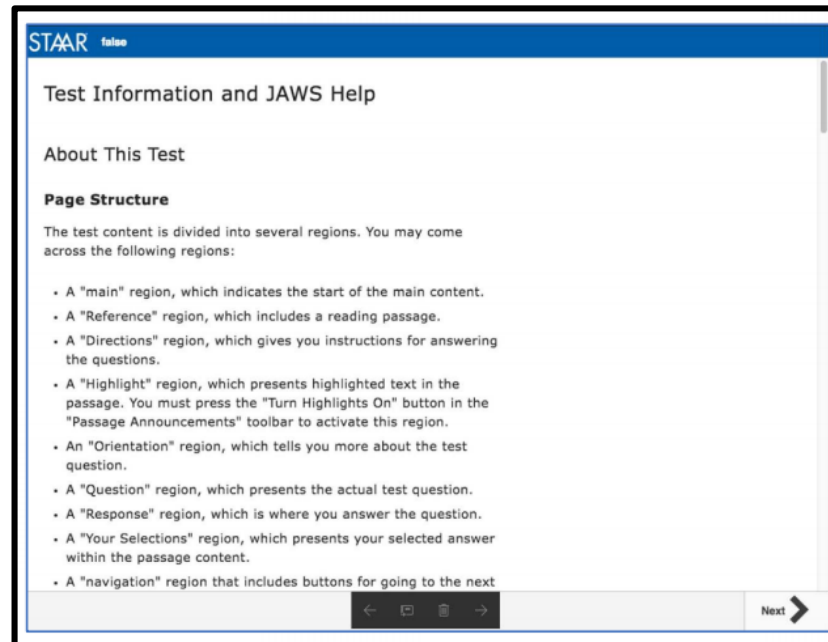


# Online Features – Designated Supports

- Refreshable Braille
  - Available on STAAR online as a PNP providing screen reader support for refreshable braille displays with JAWS software
  - Available on English versions of grades 3–8 reading, grades 4 and 7 writing, grade 8 social studies, English I, English II, and U.S. History
- Format of the assessment
  - Left justified
  - Text streamlined to allow for continuous reading of text
  - Questions directly follow passages

# Online Features – Designated Supports

- Refreshable Braille
  - Prior to beginning a test using a refreshable braille display, a JAWS Help screen is provided to orient the test taker to the regions within the test. Students should practice interacting with this online PNP prior to testing day.



# Online Features: Designated Supports – Content and Language Supports

- Content and Language Supports
  - Writing Checklists (writing compositions only)
  - Punnett Squares (Biology)
  - Pop-ups
  - Rollovers
  - Prereads

# Online Features: Designated Supports – Content and Language Supports

The screenshot shows the STAAR Grade 3 Mathematics interface. The question asks for the combined number of points scored by Stephen, Alfred, Pete, and Wesley. A table titled 'Points Scored' lists players and their points. A designated support feature, 'Rollover', is shown as a light blue box that highlights the relevant rows in the table when the question text is hovered over.

24. The frequency table shows the number of points scored by each player on a basketball team during a game.

Player	Tally
Stephen	
Alfred	
Kenji	
Pete	
Eric	
Wesley	
Hayes	

What is the combined number of points scored by Stephen, Alfred, Pete, and Wesley?

Player	Tally
Stephen	
Alfred	
Kenji	
Pete	
Eric	
Wesley	
Hayes	

Record your answer in the boxes below. Be sure to use the correct place value.

1-32

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Back Review/End Next

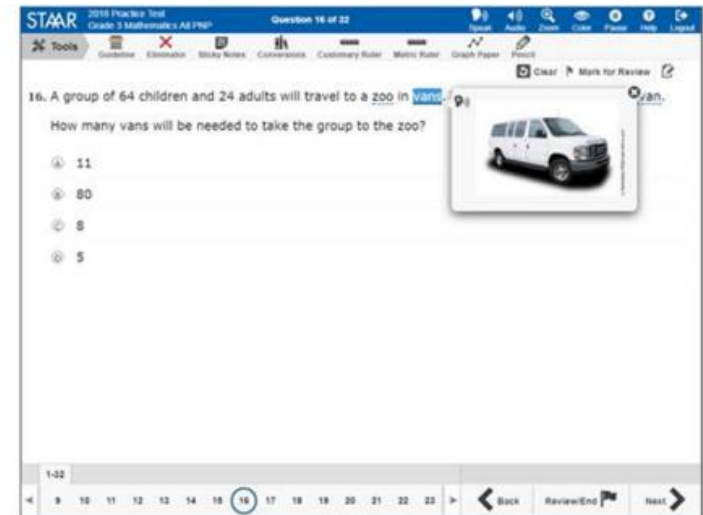
## Rollover

- Bullet or separate steps in a process (e.g., multi-step problem, sequence of events).
- Reword complex questions or answer choices to condense text.
- Reorganize and simplify historical excerpts.

# Online Features: Designated Supports – Content and Language Supports

- Define literary terms
- Includes the formula from the grade-specific Reference Materials when the question specifies the measure or conversion to be performed
- Directs student attention to parts of the grade-specific Reference Materials
- Provides clarifying information for a graphic organizer, political cartoon, or map
- Provide a visual representation in the selection, question, answer choices, or in the writing prompt by adding graphics, photographs, or animations
- Define or clarify construct-irrelevant words, phrases, and sentences using plain language, synonyms, definitions, examples, and consistent language

## Pop-ups



# Online Features: Designated Supports – Content and Language Supports

## Punnett Squares

29. In cattle the allele for cloven hooves (H) is dominant over the allele for mule-foot hooves (h); the phenotype for each trait is shown in this picture.

Punnett Squares

	H	h				
H						
h						

What is the probability of cloven hooves in the offspring of parents that are heterozygous for the trait?

A 25%  
B 50%  
C 75%

1-54

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

Back Review/End Next

## Spelling Assistance

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

1. READ the following quotation.

I do not know of anyone who has gotten to the top without hard work.  
—Margaret Thatcher

THINK about all the hard work you do. It may be work you do at school, at home, or outside.

WRITE about one type of hard work you do. Tell about your work and explain why it is so hard to do.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea

1 2-5 6-9 10-16 17-25

Back Review/End Next

Suggestions

- wipeout
- without
- wideout
- missout
- miscut

Characters (13/1750)

# Online Features: Designated Supports – Content and Language Supports

## Prereading Text

- Offer text prior to the selection (for grades 3–8 reading, grades 4 and 7 writing, English I, and English II only).

The screenshot displays the STAAR 2018 Practice Test interface for Grade 8 Reading All P/NP. The top navigation bar includes 'Tools' (Guideline, Eliminator, Sticky Notes, Pencil) and 'Speak', 'Audio', 'Zoom', 'Color', 'Pause', 'Help', 'Logout'. The main content area is titled 'Question 1 of 44' and contains the following text:

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*In this selection, the author recalls a dovious adventure he and his brother, Kenny, took when they were young children. The boys' mother asks them to go buy groceries from Miss Andrews' store. The author and Kenny have taken their old, monochromatic gray wagon to the store many times, but this time the author has concocted a new plan. The author wants to explore a new street that is off-limits to him and Kenny since it is near the busy Dallas Highway. After the boys buy their groceries from Mr. Byford, they begin their foray, or trip, down the forbidden street. On their way they pass behind businesses and see their house through a vacant, empty lot.*

Read the selection to learn what happens with the boys' adventure beyond Parrish Street.

**The Road Almost Taken**

by Joe Holley

1 I was 5 years old that summer afternoon when my brother and I set off on our daring adventure. Kenny was 3.

2 Our prairie schooner, our Pinta-Niña-Santa María, was our little gray wagon. It used to be a little red wagon, but it had gotten

The right-hand panel shows a dictionary entry for 'stretch' and a question:

**stretch** \ˈstretʃ\ *n*

1. something that seems beyond what is normal 2. the length or extent of an area 3. a continuous period of time 4. the amount of elasticity of something

Which definition best matches the way the word stretch is used in paragraph 9?

A Not quite normal  
B Definition 2  
C Definition 3  
D Definition 4

The bottom of the interface shows a progress bar with question numbers 1-7, a 'Back' button, a 'Review/End' button, and a 'Next' button.



# Online Features: Designated Supports – Content and Language Supports

## Writing Checklist

The screenshot displays the STAAR 2016 Practice Test interface for Grade 4 Writing All PNP, Question 1 of 25. The interface includes a top navigation bar with icons for Speak, Audio, Zoom, Color, Pause, Help, and Logout. Below this is a toolbar with icons for Tools, Guideline, Sticky Notes, Writing Checklist, and Pencil. The main content area shows a writing prompt for an expository composition. The prompt includes a quotation by Margaret Thatcher: "I do not know of anyone who has gotten to the top without hard work." Below the quotation, students are instructed to think about hard work and write about one type of hard work they do. A checklist overlay is visible, listing seven items for self-reflection, with the first two checked. The checklist items are: "Did I write one or two sentences that clearly explain the main point of my paper?", "Do all my sentences help the reader understand my main point?", "Did I write my sentences in an order that makes sense?", "Did I use specific details and examples to develop my ideas?", "Did I use specific words that helped me clearly explain my main point?", "Did I write in complete sentences using capital letters and correct punctuation?", and "Are all of my words spelled correctly?". The interface also shows a character count of 26/1750 and navigation buttons for Back, Review/End, and Next.

STAAR 2016 Practice Test  
Grade 4 Writing All PNP  
Question 1 of 25

Tools: Guideline, Sticky Notes, Writing Checklist, Pencil

Clear Mark for Review

**WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository**

1. **READ** the following quotation.

I do not know of anyone who has gotten to the top without hard work.  
—Margaret Thatcher

**THINK** about all the hard work you do. It may be work you do at school, at home, or outside.

**WRITE** about one type of hard work you do. Tell about your work and explain why it is so hard to do.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing

Writing Checklist

- Did I write one or two sentences that clearly explain the main point of my paper?
- Do all my sentences help the reader understand my main point?
- Did I write my sentences in an order that makes sense?
- Did I use specific details and examples to develop my ideas?
- Did I use specific words that helped me clearly explain my main point?
- Did I write in complete sentences using capital letters and correct punctuation?
- Are all of my words spelled correctly?

Characters (26/1750)

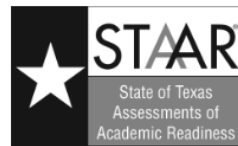
1 2-5 6-9 10-16 17-25

Back Review/End Next

# Educator Guide

to Accessibility within the  
STAAR Program

2019–2020



For more information about accessibility features and designated supports, refer to the [\*Educator Guide to Accessibility within the STAAR Program.\*](#)