



**STAAR Practice  
Grades 3  
March 28-29**

Third grade students will be taking a practice Math & Reading Assessment on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. In order to accommodate for these assessments we have made some changes to ancillary times, please see below for changes. Any grade level not listed below will continue to follow their regular ancillary time. No lunch times have been modified.

Ancillary Changes:

Tuesday, March 28th	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade 10:40-11:25	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade 1:40-2:25
Wednesday, March 29th	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade 10:40-11:25	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade 1:40-2:25

Thank you for your assistance with this modified schedule.



## STAAR Assessments

Grades 4 & 5

March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

Fourth and fifth grade students will be taking a Texas STAAR Assessment next week. Fourth grade will be taking the writing assessment on Tuesday and fifth grade will be taking the math assessment on Tuesday and reading assessment on Wednesday. To accommodate for STAAR Assessments, we have made some changes to ancillary and lunch times.

### Ancillary Changes Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> :

4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	no ancillary – testing
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	no ancillary - testing

### Lunch Time Changes for Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> :

4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12:30-1:00	Due to the altered lunch schedule, we ask for these dates parents refrain from having lunch with their children.
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### Ancillary Changes Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> :

5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	no ancillary - testing
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### Lunch Time Changes for Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> :

5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12:30-1:00	Due to the altered lunch schedule, we ask for these dates parents refrain from having lunch with their children.
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Thank you for your assistance with this modified schedule.

# Parker After School Care Registration Form - Spring I 2017

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Magnet Area: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Begins: **March 6, 2017**      Registration Ends: **March 24, 2017**  
*Late registration will not be pro-rated.*

1. One time annual registration fee of \$50 per family per year.
2. If your child is not in After School Care or Magnet he/she must go home and return for their class or register for After School Care. The rate is \$20 per month for 1 day a week from 3:00 to start of class.
3. Fill out one form per child, include the activity fee plus registration and return completed form to the front office by the deadline.
4. Write your child's first and last name, and Enrichment on the memo section of the check on the envelope.
5. Make checks payable to Parker PTO.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Name	Day	Time	Start	End	Notes	Cost	totals
Karate	Wedensdays	4:00 - 5:00	3/22	5/10	8 weeks	\$125.00	
Karate Uniform			* Separate check payable to Mr. Ron Williams			\$40.00	XXXXXX
Mad Science	Fridays	4:00-5:00	3/24	5/12	7 weeks	\$105.00	
Abakadoodle Art	Mondays	4:00 - 5:00	3/20	5/8	8 weeks	\$115.00	

Annual Registration \$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL DUE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check # \_\_\_\_\_




**PLEASE NOTE:** Low enrollment may result in cancellation.



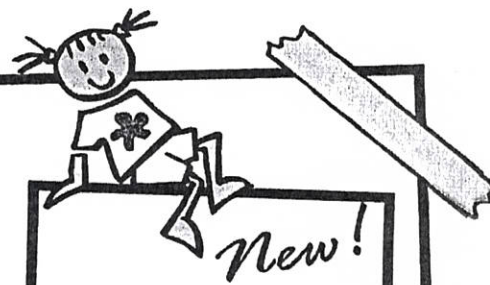
# WORLD ART

Abrakadoodle art: all the world's a studio! With locations around the world, Abrakadoodle is helping kids to be creative everywhere. This series focuses upon art from six Abrakadoodle locations: the United States, Panama, Indonesia, Singapore, China, and Japan. In each class, Abrakadoodle artists are learning more about world artists, cultures, and traditions as they explore unique sculptures, create vibrant paintings, learn about ancient ink techniques, and discover rich cultural traditions. This series even includes quirky robots and sleepy dogs!

**The world is our studio while:**

-  Sculpting interesting animals
-  Practicing the art of puppet design
-  Learning various painting techniques including tinting, watercolor resist and brush painting

World Art is creative, cultural, and fun!



**Register NOW to ensure your spot in the class!**

**Did you know...?**

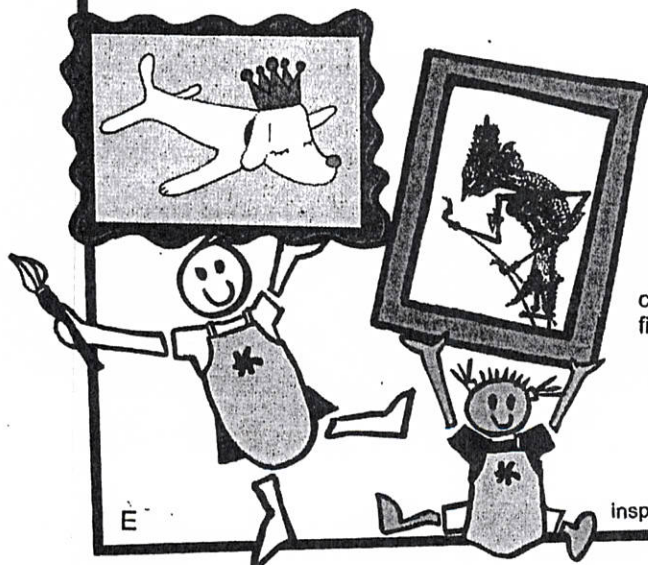
That Abrakadoodle makes the world a better place by teaching kids everywhere that art is a means for personal expression, cultural understanding, and individualized learning!

**Classes begin Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>!**

**Class Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Classes Offered: Mondays**

**Class Fee: \$115 for 8-week session (includes all materials)**



Abrakadoodle is an international art education franchise dedicated to developing creativity in children. Check out our classes, camps, in-school field trips and outrageous birthday parties online at [www.abrakadoodle.com](http://www.abrakadoodle.com).

Don't forget to tell a friend about Abrakadoodle!



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Inspired by Yoshitomo Nara and Wayang Kulit

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# Martial Arts

After School

## Teaches Life Lessons

Anti- bullying Program

How to stand up for yourself

Builds Self-esteem

Discipline

Respect

Master Williams's passion is in teaching Traditional Martial Arts, but he also hopes to help support the job you do as a

Parent!!

\*\*\* One of your privileges of being a student of Master Williams is that you can also train at his Dojang at no extra Charge!!!

Classes are on Wednesdays 4:00pm till 5:00pm (on campus)

Ron Williams for more info. 281-983-9901





## Parker Elementary

Mad Science Extracurricular Programs will amaze your child and show them just how cool science can be!

Program	Grades	Day & Time	Dates	Fee
<i>Mad Science Misc - 9 Weeks</i>	K - Gr 5	Fri 4:00 - 5:00 PM	Jan 13 - Mar 10 9 weeks	Contact School

### Program Description:

Put on your goggles and lab coat...it is time to have some FUN! Join us this semester as we learn science through hands-on experiments and interactive demonstrations. Our Mad Scientists make science easy to understand and spark imaginative learning. Enroll today and science will become your favorite subject!

### Weekly Topics:

Bugs! • Detective Science • Earthworks • Kitchen Chemistry • Mad Science Machines • Movie Effects • Science of Toys • Walloping Weather • Dry Ice Capades

Program	Grades	Day & Time	Dates	Fee
<i>Mad Science Misc. - 7 Weeks</i>	K - Gr 5	Fri 4:00 - 5:00 PM	Mar 24 - May 12 7 weeks	Contact School

### Program Description:

Put on your goggles and lab coat...it is time to have some FUN! Join us this semester as we learn science through hands-on experiments and interactive demonstrations. Our Mad Scientists make science easy to understand and spark imaginative learning. Enroll today and science will become your favorite subject!

### Weekly Topics:

Chem in a Flash • Glow Show • Junior Reactors • Lab Works • pH Phactor • Slime Time • Super Sticky Stuff

### REGISTER WITH THE SCHOOL'S AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM!

Mad Science of Houston has been teaching children to learn to love science since 1995! Visit our website and check out all the different types of programming we can offer you!

SPARKING  
IMAGINATIVE  
LEARNING  
Connect with us:

ASSEMBLIES

SPECIAL  
EVENTS

AFTER-SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS

VACATION &  
SUMMER PROGRAMS

PRESCHOOL  
PROGRAMS

BIRTHDAY  
PARTIES

WORKSHOPS

[www.madscience.org/houston](http://www.madscience.org/houston)





**Join members of the community to celebrate Keep Houston Beautiful Day at Westbury Park Playground on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. We will plant, prune, paint, play, and cleanup! Bring the whole family.**

**Sponsored by the Westbury Civic Club.**

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLEASE JOIN HISD TRUSTEE  
**WANDA ADAMS**  
AND THE **BRAYS OAKS MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**



FOR A DISTRICT IX  
**COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETING**  
STATE OF HISD SCHOOLS | RECAPTURE

**#FundTXPubED**

WEDNESDAY, **MARCH 29, 2017 AT 6 P.M.**

**TINSLEY ELEMENTARY** | 11035 Bob White | Houston, TX 77096

## **SPEAKERS**

**Richard A. Carranza**  
*Superintendent  
of Schools*

**Samuel Sarabia**  
*Deputy  
Superintendent*

*Representative  
from State Rep.  
Alma Allen's Office*

**Glenn Reed**  
*Budgeting & Financial  
General Manager*



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# Recapture on May 6 ballot

## FAQ

### Didn't we already vote on Recapture in November? Why is HISD holding another election?

Yes. In November 2016, HISD voters rejected Proposition 1 and purchasing attendance credits by 62% to 37%, making HISD subject to Detachment of non-residential, commercial property to pay its Recapture obligation. Since then, action by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and other factors have reduced HISD's Recapture obligation from about \$162 million to about \$77 million. Future Recapture obligations have been reduced as well. The vote also started a conversation among legislators in Austin about changing the state's outdated school finance system. In response, the HISD Board of Education called a new election for May 6, 2017, giving voters another opportunity to decide how HISD will pay its Recapture obligation.

### Why is the Recapture payment lower now?

The TEA announced that it will recognize half of the local homestead exemption when calculating the wealth level per student (Recapture level) of HISD and other districts this year and in the years to follow. HISD offers a local homestead exemption of 20 percent off the full appraised property value of every home. Because of the exemption, the district only collects property taxes on 80 percent of every home's appraised value. The state saw 100 percent of each home on HISD's tax roll and assumed HISD collected 100 percent of the property taxes from homeowners. This assumption has long caused Recapture-paying school districts to send more of their local revenue to the state. HISD's estimated Recapture payment is also projected to decrease because of changes in the property values used to calculate a district's property wealth (CPTD) and weighted average daily attendance (WADA). Following the district's annual property value audit, the Texas Comptroller reduced HISD's property wealth, known as CPTD value, by \$2 billion, primarily as a result of property-value protests and lawsuits. Additionally, since the start of the school year, HISD's WADA has been slightly higher than projected. Because the amount of Recapture a district owes is calculated using the district's property wealth (CPTD) and WADA, adjustments to these values change the amount the district owes in Recapture.

### What will be on the ballot on May 6 and what does a FOR or AGAINST vote mean?

Here's the language that will appear on the ballot: *Authorizing the board of trustees of Houston Independent School District to purchase attendance credits from the state with local tax revenues.*

A vote FOR means Purchasing Attendance Credits by writing a check for about \$77 million this spring to the state comprised of local property taxes. The district will continue to make annual Recapture payments, but our total tax collections will continue to grow to offset these payments as property values rise. A vote FOR means the district will have more capacity in the future to fund schools.

A vote AGAINST Purchasing Attendance Credits means Detachment of the most valuable non-residential, commercial properties located within HISD boundaries from the district's tax roll. The TEA will detach the properties and reassign them to Aldine ISD, where they will be taxed at Aldine ISD's tax rate. Under current law, those properties will be permanently detached, and the district will lose those tax collections for district operations. The district will lose debt service tax collections used to pay back bonds, which is the district's debt for building schools. A vote AGAINST means the district will face budget cuts and have less capacity in the future to fund schools.

### Has a school district ever had property detached before?

No, this has never happened before.

### How will taxes of detached commercial properties be impacted?

About \$8 billion worth of property has been identified for Detachment, and the Texas Education Agency has decided the first detached properties will be assigned to Aldine ISD, where they will be taxed at a higher rate. (HISD has the lowest tax rate among school districts in Harris County.) The list of properties include the Galleria, Greenway Plaza and downtown. HISD's total tax rate is \$1.2067, with Maintenance & Operations (M&O) at \$1.0267 and Interest & Sinking (I&S), which is used to pay the district's debt, at \$0.18. Aldine ISD's total tax rate is \$1.3233880, with Maintenance & Operations (M&O) at \$1.1333880 and Interest & Sinking (I&S) at \$0.19.

MARCH | 2017



### How does the vote impact the property tax rate in HISD?

Under both scenarios, the HISD tax rate may increase to fund the financial needs of the District to keep teacher pay competitive and pay fixed cost increases. HISD could face budget cuts if property values decline in the future as we are sending recapture payments to the state. As long as property values grow steadily, then we do not foresee major budget cuts. However, a vote AGAINST Purchasing Attendance Credits (resulting in Detachment) would result in a higher tax rate because the District will have less property to tax. In addition, as more and more commercial properties are detached, a larger percentage of the responsibility to fund public education would shift to homeowners and remaining business owners.

### Is there any other solution?

The Legislature convened in January 2017 and could make changes to the school finance system to reduce HISD's Recapture payments in the future. If the Legislature does not act or if the May election fails, the Commissioner of Education will detach properties effective July 1, 2017. As long as property wealth grows in Houston, and the state's school finance system remains the same, HISD will continue to remain in Recapture. In addition, the Legislature could reform the entire school finance system and eliminate recapture as a funding mechanism for public education either this session or in future legislative sessions.

### How did we get here? Why is HISD subject to Recapture?

Under the state's funding structure, HISD is considered "property-wealthy" and is subject to a Recapture payment to the state under Chapter 41 of the Texas Education Code, commonly known as the "Robin Hood" plan. It was passed by the Legislature in 1993 in an attempt to equalize disparities between property-wealthy and property-poor districts. Under the current law, local property taxes recaptured from property-wealthy districts do not actually increase funding for property poor districts, but instead replace and free-up State general revenue that may be spent for other purposes. Though nearly 80 percent of HISD students come from low-income families and a third are learning to speak English, rising property values in Houston and an outdated school finance system caused HISD in 2016 to go into Recapture.

### What is the HISD Board of Education's recommendation on how to proceed?

Board of Education trustees have traveled to Austin to work with the Legislature on the Recapture issue. The Board urges the Legislature to reduce its over-reliance on local property tax dollars to fund public education statewide and replace those local tax dollars with state funds. HISD's legislative agenda outlines further steps on how to proceed, including:

- Increasing the state-set "wealth" level, otherwise known as the basic allotment, which reduces Recapture;
- Counting full-day pre-K students in Recapture calculations, resulting in \$39 million in Recapture savings; and
- Allowing districts paying Recapture to receive state transportation funding, resulting in about \$12 million in revenue for HISD.

### How can I stay informed about what is happening in the Legislature regarding school finance?

You can visit [HoustonISD.org/Recapture](http://HoustonISD.org/Recapture) or sign up to receive news updates from HISD via e-mail at [www.HoustonISD.org/subscribe](http://www.HoustonISD.org/subscribe). You can also visit our newsblog at [HoustonISD.org](http://HoustonISD.org) and follow us on social media at [Twitter.com/HoustonISD](https://twitter.com/HoustonISD) and [Facebook.com/HoustonISD](https://facebook.com/HoustonISD).



# STAAR FAQ

Updated March 2017

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness — more commonly referred to as STAAR — are required assessments given every year to students in Texas public schools.

## ARE HISD STUDENTS REQUIRED TO TAKE THE STATE TEST?

Yes. Generally, every student receiving instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) shall take the appropriate criterion-referenced assessments – in this case, the STAAR, as required by the TEC § 39.023.

## IS PASSING STAAR A REQUIREMENT FOR PROMOTION TO THE NEXT GRADE?

Yes, but only for grades 5 and 8, in order to comply with state promotion requirements. In order for students to move to the next grade level, they must show that they have met HISD's promotion standards. These standards generally include course or subject grades, state tests where applicable, and attendance. However, because of changes to the state's testing calendar and the subsequent delay in receiving test results, promotion standards have been modified for grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 to exclude passing scores on STAAR tests. The HISD Board of Education made this decision at the January 2017 board meeting. Read more about promotion standards [here](#).

## IF MY STUDENT FAILS A STAAR TEST OR DOESN'T TAKE A STAAR TEST, WILL HE OR SHE STILL BE PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL? WILL SUMMER SCHOOL BE REQUIRED?

When a student doesn't meet all district and state promotion requirements, he/she is referred to a school-based Grade Placement Committee prior to the start of summer school for a formal review of grades, attendance records, and other assessments. The Grade Placement Committee is made up of a student's parents or guardian, teacher of record, and principal or principal's designee.

After the review, the Grade Placement Committee makes a determination: move forward with promotion or require the student to receive additional instruction during summer school. Students who need additional instruction are re-evaluated by the committee at the end of the summer, and a final promotion/retention determination is made and must be unanimous.

## CAN A PARENT/GUARDIAN OPT A STUDENT OUT OF STAAR?

Standardized testing is required in Texas public schools by the STAAR program set out in the Texas Education Code, chapters 39 and 19, and the Texas Administrative Code, chapter 101. State law makes it clear that students may not "opt out" of standardized or any other tests. Texas Education Code section 26.010 states: Exemption from Instruction (a) A parent is entitled to remove the parent's child temporarily from a class or other school activity that conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs if the parent presents or delivers to the teacher of the parent's child a written statement authorizing the removal of the child from the class or other school activity. A parent is not entitled to remove the parent's child from a class or other school activity to avoid a test or to prevent the child from taking a subject for an entire semester. (b) This section does not exempt a child from satisfying grade level or graduation requirements in a manner acceptable to the school district and the agency.

According to HISD Board of Education policy, a parent or guardian who wishes to opt his or her child out of the state-mandated assessments can complete the "[State Assessments Opt-Out Form](#)." This form is not required and is not considered to be an authorization for a test exemption request. It merely lists the implications of not testing that parents/guardians should be aware of. Instead of the form, parents/guardians may submit a written request to the school principal.



**WHAT HAPPENS TO MY STUDENT ON TESTING DAYS IF WE OPT OUT?**

If a student is present during the state test administration and chooses not to test, a blank answer document – coded with an “S” for Scored – is submitted for scoring as required by the state. The student will receive a raw score of zero and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject. If a student is absent during the entire state test administration, they are coded with an “A” for absent. Such designation does not impact the school or the district regarding performance calculations but will impact participation rates on the test. This applies to any make-up days or retest days. See the STAAR testing schedule [here](#).

**WHAT CAN THE SCHOOLS OFFER TO STUDENTS WHO ATTEND SCHOOL BUT DO NOT PARTICIPATE DURING STAAR ADMINISTRATION DAYS?**

Schools may assign homework, projects, etc., and will provide a safe, educational setting for these students to study independently. There will be no negative consequences or disciplinary action on the part of teachers or school administrators, such as detention or removal of recess, for students who do not participate in STAAR.

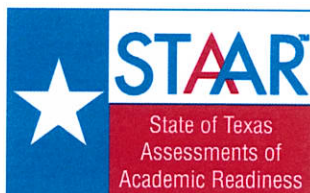
**IF MY STUDENT DOESN'T TAKE THE STAAR, WILL IT AFFECT MY SCHOOL OR THE DISTRICT?**

If the student opts out and is absent during the testing window, there is no direct impact on state accountability ratings, although there could be an indirect impact in that teachers and schools won't get credit for students who potentially could have done well on the test. Additionally, teachers, schools, and parents/guardians won't have an accurate measure of how well students met state standards.

In schools where a high number of students are not participating in STAAR, the test participation rate may impact the federal accountability rating. Additionally, any campus or district-level student performance or academic growth analyses would not include information for these students. These analyses are used to make decisions about the effectiveness of campus and district instructional programs and efforts at the campus, district, and state levels.

If the student is present and does not test, the raw score of zero and lowest possible scale score will be included in school and district accountability calculations.





# What you need to know about STAAR

## SPRING/SUMMER 2017

### TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

Required to pass the following End-of-Course (EOC) exams:

- Algebra I
- English I
- English II
- Biology
- U.S. History

### EXAMS FOR ALL OTHER GRADES

#### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

- Mathematics
- Reading

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Mathematics
- Reading
- Writing

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE\*

- Mathematics\*
- Science
- Reading\*

\* A student may advance to the next grade level only by passing these tests or by unanimous decision of his or her Grade Placement Committee. Students have three opportunities to pass mathematics and reading.

#### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Mathematics
- Reading

#### 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Mathematics
- Reading
- Writing

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE\*

- Mathematics\*
- Science
- Reading\*
- Social Studies

\* A student may advance to the next grade level only by passing these tests or by unanimous decision of his or her Grade Placement Committee. Students have three opportunities to pass mathematics and reading.

### STAAR SPRING 2017 TESTING DATES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
<b>MARCH 28</b> Grade 4: Writing Grade 5: Mathematics	<b>MARCH 28</b> Grade 7: Writing Grade 8: Mathematics
<b>MARCH 29</b> Grade 5: Reading	<b>MARCH 29</b> Grade 8: Reading
<b>MARCH 31</b> Deadline for Make-ups	<b>MARCH 31</b> Deadline for Make-ups
<b>MAY 8</b> Grades 3 and 4: Mathematics Grade 5: Mathematics Retest	<b>MAY 8</b> Grade 6 and 7: Mathematics Grade 8: Mathematics Retest
<b>MAY 9</b> Grades 3 and 4: Reading Grade 5: Reading Retest	<b>MAY 9</b> Grade 6 and 7: Reading Grade 8: Reading Retest
<b>MAY 10</b> Grade 5: Science	<b>MAY 10</b> Grade 8: Science
	<b>MAY 11</b> Grade 8: Social Studies
<b>MAY 12</b> Deadline for Make-ups	<b>MAY 12</b> Deadline for Make-ups

### HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE (EOC) EXAMS

<b>MARCH 28</b> English I	<b>MARCH 30</b> English II
<b>MARCH 31</b> Deadline for English I & II Make-ups	<b>MAY 1-5</b> Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History
<b>MAY 5</b> Deadline for STAAR EOC Make-ups (Algebra I, Biology, U.S. History)	

### STAAR SUMMER 2017 TESTING DATES

#### STAAR GRADES 5 & 8 MATH AND READING RETESTS

<b>JUNE 19</b> Grade 5 & 8: Math Retests	<b>JUNE 22</b> Make-Ups
<b>JUNE 20</b> Grade 5 & 8: Reading Retests	<b>JUNE 23</b> Make-Ups
<b>JUNE 21</b> Make-Ups	

STAAR make-ups can be scheduled any day during this window

### HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE (EOC) EXAMS

<b>JUNE 19</b> English I, Algebra I, Biology, U.S. History	<b>JUNE 21</b> English II, Algebra I, Biology, U.S. History
<b>JUNE 20</b> Algebra I, Biology, U.S. History	<b>JUNE 23</b> Algebra I, Biology, U.S. History

STAAR EOC make-ups can be scheduled any day during this window

To learn more about STAAR, please visit [HoustonISD.org/STAAR](http://HoustonISD.org/STAAR)

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[HoustonISD.org/STAAR](http://HoustonISD.org/STAAR)