

Testing Data - Please read instructions/info below data tables at bottom of spreadsheet.

File Name	Description/TEST	Data Organization/Information	Years of Availability
Various	TAAS Testing Files	Reporting varies but keep in mind these concepts when looking at data set titles:	1994-2007
	TAAS	Files are organized by grade: Examples - g3=3rd, g3s=3rd and Spanish, g8=8th grade, go=alternative test takers at the high school level only, gx=exit level (mostly 10th graders); Files are named by the type of testing: repf=includes all subjects tested (math, reading, and in some grades writing), dsk=occurs during transition to TAKS year, also includes all subjects; Spring (sp) test dates followed by the year represent the first test taken, May, June, July, August, and October test dates are retakes	
Various	TAKS Testing Files	Reporting varies but keep in mind these concepts when looking at data set titles:	2003-2014
	TAKS	Don't get fooled by years: fy=fiscal year and refers to a fall/spring terms so the fall portion will always be off by a year (e.g., fy05 refers to fall '04 and spring '05 as well as retakes in summer '05); When looking at months: February, March, and/or April tests usually refer to first time test takers while May, July, October, and December tests refer to repeats; Several tests have added identifiers: sp=Spanish and x=exit exam; sometimes subjects (e.g., math or English) are separate and sometimes they are combined so look closely	
Various	STAAR Testing Files	Reporting varies but keep in mind these concepts when looking at data set titles:	2012-present
	STAAR	Lower grades (3-8) are combined and organized by number (and sometimes by subject); High school exams are organized into End of Course (eoc) and have their own indicators: a1=Algebra1, a2=Algebra2, bi=Biology, ch=Chemistry, e1=English1, e2=English2, ge=Geometry, ph=Physics, r1=Reading1, r2=Reading2, r3=Reading3, us=U.S. History, w1=Writing1, w2=Writing2, w3=Writing3, wg=World Geography, wh=World History Spring (or spring month) test dates are the first test try; July, October, and December dates are retakes -- TEA testing calendars show fall retakes on differing calendars but they are in fact retakes and not students taking new tests (April '13 should link with July13/October13/December13) -- pay close attention because our data comes to us packaged the same as TEA testing calendars so it may get confusing.	
telpas_(qtr,yy)	TELPAS Testing Files	Reporting files do not vary from year to year with this data set.	2004-2016

Testing Timeline:			
Test Name	Years Given	Grades	Subjects
TABS	1980-1985	3, 5, 9	M, R, W
TEAMS	1986-1990	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11	M, R, W
TAAS	1991-2002	3, 5, 7, 9, 11	M, R, W
TAKS	2003-2011	3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	M, R, W, SC, SS
TELPAS	2004-present	3-12	LEP
STAAR	2012-present	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	M, R, W, SC, SS
STAAR EOC	2012-present	9, 10, 11	ENG1, ENG2, ALG, BIO, US-H

Data Description:

- Each of these data sets cover achievement testing for various years and/or subjects.
- The data within the files describe whether or not particular students met their set accountability indicators (e.g., a 5th grader taking TAKS or 8th grade ESL student taking TELPAS).
- Each file contains variables that show whether or the test was passed, score levels, and more in-depth information on specific objectives.
- Some files have information on more than one test and, where indicated, information is given on accommodations for testing.
- For some students who did not pass the test in the first sitting, there are additional files within the same school year which show test scores for repeat tests of the same accountability measure.
- Be careful considering what tests you need when looking at repeat testers, sometimes the files for those testers have been packaged in the next year of testing (e.g., an October sitting for a 2012 STAAR repeat will be filed under 2013 tests).
- While tests historically span for a certain amount of time (see testing timeline), data persists on high school students for several years after as exam exams are completed.

Overall Considerations:

- Be careful in your consideration of data. Be sure to look closely for what data you need to fulfill your research question(s) and ask only for information that is needed. For example: do you need the first round of tests for your information or all retakes to create your data?
- Consider implementation turnover between test types (e.g., TAKS to STAAR) as well as legislative changes which impact the data (i.e., HB 5 passed in 2013 and implemented in 2014 testing).
- Also consider that as data file names change from year to year, expect that variable names may also differ slightly.

Several resources below should help as you consider the tests and data for your study

- **TEA Testing Calendars:** <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/calendars/> and <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/>
- **TAKS, STAAR, and TELPAS Data File Formats** <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/datafileformats/>
- **STAAR Testing Home:** <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/>
- **STAAR Alternative** <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/special-ed/staaralt/>

Note:

- **2016 Grades 4 and 7** Data for Writing tests administered in March 2016, and Reading and Mathematics tests administered in May 2016 are combined to one record per student.
- **2016 Grades 5 and 8** Reading and Mathematics retests were administered on May 9 – 10, 2016. The second retests scheduled for June 21 – 22, 2016 did not take place, because the Commissioner of