

DATE:	May 7, 2026
SUBJECT:	Call for HB 8 Alternative BOY & MOY Assessment Instruments
CATEGORY:	Assessment Design, Development, and Quality
NEXT STEPS:	Share with appropriate staff or interested organizations

Background

Due to changes from House Bill 8 (HB 8), 89th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) test is being discontinued, with the last full year of implementation being the 2026–27 school year. A new set of shorter progress monitoring assessments, which may be referred to as the Student Success Tool (SST), will replace STAAR starting in the 2027–28 school year.

This new SST system will include short, adaptive beginning-of-year (BOY) and middle-of-year (MOY) assessments to show progress during the year, along with an end-of-year (EOY) assessment. Under HB 8, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) must provide a BOY, MOY, and EOY assessment for school systems to use. While school systems must use the new EOY assessment provided by TEA, they may use alternative assessments for the BOY and MOY assessments.

With this correspondence, TEA announces the upcoming launch of an application process to solicit, identify, and approve assessments to be placed on the Commissioner’s List of Approved Alternative BOY and MOY Assessments. Approved BOY and MOY assessments will be eligible for statewide use beginning in the 2027–28 school year.

Access to Application Materials

Starting on May 8, 2026, all solicitation materials will be available on the [Call for House Bill 8 \(HB 8\) Alternative BOY & MOY Assessment Instruments web page](#), including:

- The Request for Alternative BOY and MOY Assessments packet
- Application forms and submission instructions
- Updates and posted responses to submitted questions

Informational Webinars

TEA will host an optional informational webinar providing an overview of the Request for Alternative BOY and MOY Assessments packet and application requirements:

- May 12, 2026, 11:00 a.m. CT—Informational Webinar (Zoom)

Registration links are available in the Key Dates section of this correspondence as well as on the [Call for House Bill 8 \(HB 8\) Alternative BOY & MOY Assessment Instruments web page](#).

Attendance is optional and not required for application submission.

Questions and Answers

Questions regarding the Request for Alternative BOY and MOY Assessments must be submitted exclusively through the [Questions for TEA Call for Alternative BOY and MOY Assessments Survey](#). Only

questions submitted via the survey will be reviewed and responded to. TEA will compile and respond to all submitted questions at once, and responses will be posted as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the [Call for House Bill 8 \(HB 8\) Alternative BOY & MOY Assessment Instruments web page](#). Deadlines for submitting questions and the posting date for responses are included in the Key Dates section of this correspondence.

Key Dates

The following dates outline the application timeline and review process.

Date	Event
May 8, 2026	Request for Alternative BOY & MOY Assessments posted and applications available
May 12, 2026, 11:00 a.m. CT	Informational webinar held via Zoom to provide an overview of the RFABMA and its requirements
May 15, 2026, 12:00 p.m. CT	Questions due to TEA to be answered in this Request for Alternative BOY and MOY Assessments. Questions must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) CT and should be submitted through the Questions for TEA Call for Alternative BOY and MOY Assessments Survey .
May 22, 2026	FAQ posted on the Call for House Bill 8 (HB 8) Alternative BOY & MOY Assessment Instruments web page
June 5, 2026, 5:00 p.m. CT	Applications due. Applications must be received by the deadline to be considered.