

# 84th Legislative Session

**Below is a short summary of bills that impact testing passed during the 84th Legislative Session:**

***SB 149: Graduation Committees***

Allows individual graduation committees, an alternative path to graduation, for students who have passed all courses for graduation but have failed 1 or 2 end-of-course assessments. Unless renewed next legislative session, this bill expires on September 1, 2017.

***HB 743 - Grades 3-8 Testing***

Sets more reasonable time limitations on tests for younger children: require test design so 85% of 3rd-5th graders are able to complete the test in 120 minutes, and 85% of 6th-8th graders can finish tests in 180 minutes. Also requires tests be validated by an independent third party other than the vendor or TEA.

***HB 1164 - High School Testing***

This bill originated in the House with the elimination of the state mandated writing tests. The Senate re-wrote the bill. The bill passed with a broad study evaluating the best way to assess writing and leaves the formulaic statewide standardized tests in place.

***HB 2804 - Accountability and a New Commission***

Does not reform STAAR tests, but does change the criteria on which schools and districts are rated: currently 95% based on STAAR test scores, this bill limits test scores to only 55% of the evaluation.

***SB 313 - Review of the TEKS/Curriculum - Vetoed by Governor Abbott***

Provides for the State Board of Education (SBOE) to conduct a review and possible modification to narrow the content and scope of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill (TEKS) of each foundation curriculum subject.