



Spanish STAAR Guide for Teachers

Grades 3 to 5 Spanish Reading Language Arts

What TEA publishes, how the test is built, and what it means in your classroom. Written in English.

41 questions. 52 points. One essay. All in Spanish.

Built from official Texas Education Agency sources. Every fact cites its TEA source by link.

Teach BIG



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This guide is written for Texas teachers and administrators of Grades 3 to 5 Spanish Reading Language Arts.

Every fact in this guide cites its official Texas Education Agency source by link. TEA pages change over time. If a link moves, start at tea.texas.gov and search the document title.

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What is in this guide

This guide gathers what the Texas Education Agency publishes about the Spanish Reading Language Arts test in grades 3 to 5: the official sources, the test design, the item types, how writing prompts are worded in Spanish, the reporting categories, how the Spanish TEKS differ from English, and what makes a Spanish version trustworthy. Each section ends with what it means in your classroom.

1. Official TEA sources and released tests
2. Test design summary
3. Item types on Spanish Reading Language Arts
4. How SCR and ECR prompts are worded in Spanish
5. Reporting categories
6. How Spanish TEKS differ from English ELAR TEKS
7. What to look for in strong Spanish materials
8. How to use this guide with your students

Sources: every link in one place

Who this guide is for

Classroom teachers and campus administrators who teach or support Grades 3 to 5 Spanish Reading Language Arts. The test is online, in Spanish, and covers reading and writing. This guide stays close to the official documents so what you teach matches what the state tests and how the state scores it.

A note on the links

Short named links in each section open the official document. The full address list at the back repeats every link so you can verify any fact in one glance. If TEA moves a page, start at tea.texas.gov and search the document title.

41 questions. 52 points. One essay.

The base test is the same in grades 3, 4, and 5. All figures come from the three Spanish blueprint PDFs.

1. Official TEA sources and released tests

STAAR Spanish is an online assessment in mathematics, reading language arts, and science in grades 3 to 5, given to eligible students for whom a Spanish version is the most appropriate measure of progress.

Source: TEA STAAR Spanish resources

TEA no longer posts full PDFs of current tests. Full length practice forms live on the TEA online practice site, and answer keys, item rationales, and tested expectations live on the released test questions page.

Online practice site: [TEA online practice site](#)

Released questions hub: [TEA released test questions](#)

What this means in your classroom: open the practice entry for your grade before the year starts so you see the same screen your students will see. Change the year and grade in the address for 2024, 2025, and 2026 forms, grades 3, 4, and 5.

Grade	Entry
3	Grade 3 entry (opens the test)
4	Grade 4 entry (opens the test)
5	Grade 5 entry (opens the test)

Spanish blueprints, called test design schematics, are written in Spanish and have been in effect since 2022 to 2023.

Document	Link
Grade 3	Grade 3 Spanish blueprint (PDF, in Spanish)
Grade 4	Grade 4 Spanish blueprint (PDF, in Spanish)
Grade 5	Grade 5 Spanish blueprint (PDF, in Spanish)

What this means in your classroom: the blueprint for your grade is the map for the year. It sets the question counts, the point ranges, and the reading load your students will face, so plan units against it.

The Spanish assessed curriculum lists the tested TEKS by grade.

Document	Link
Grade 3	Grade 3 assessed curriculum (PDF)
Grade 4	Grade 4 assessed curriculum (PDF)
Grade 5	Grade 5 assessed curriculum (PDF)

Constructed response scoring guides carry real SCR and ECR prompts with student samples and rubrics. These guides are the best models for how Spanish prompts are worded.

Guide	Link
2026, Grade 3	2026 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)
2026, Grade 4	2026 Grade 4 scoring guide (PDF)
2026, Grade 5	2026 Grade 5 scoring guide (PDF)
2025, Grade 3	2025 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)
2025, Grade 4	2025 Grade 4 scoring guide (PDF)
2025, Grade 5	2025 Grade 5 scoring guide (PDF)
2024, Grade 3	2024 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)
2024, Grade 4	2024 Grade 4 scoring guide (PDF)
2024, Grade 5	2024 Grade 5 scoring guide (PDF)
2023, Grade 3	2023 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)

What this means in your classroom: pull the scoring guide for your grade first. Its student samples show what a 2 point reading SCR and a strong ECR look like in Spanish, so your grading matches the state rubric from day one.

2. Test design summary

The base test is the same for grades 3, 4, and 5: 41 questions worth 52 points. That breaks into 38 one point questions (multiple choice and non multiple choice), 2 two point non multiple choice questions, and 1 extended constructed response worth 10 points.

Area	Questions	Points
Reading (Area 1, Lectura)	24 to 26	26 to 28
Writing (Area 2, Escritura)	15 to 17	24 to 26

Readiness standards carry about 55 to 75 percent of base test points. Supporting standards carry about 25 to 45 percent. Six embedded field test items carry zero points and do not count toward the score. The source for all figures in this section is the three Spanish blueprint PDFs.

Reading section: two single passages plus one paired passage (two passages read together). Students read 4 reading selections grouped into 3 sets. Writing section: two revising passages, two short editing passages, plus one ECR composition tied to a single or paired reading passage.

Grade	Max reading load	Field test adds
3	about 2,740 words	about 650 words max
4	about 3,040 words	about 750 words max
5	about 3,190 words	about 750 words max

2,740 / 3,040 / 3,190 words

Max reading load by grade. Field test passages can add up to 650 words in grade 3 and 750 in grades 4 and 5.

Genres. Literary: fiction, poetry, drama, literary nonfiction. Non literary: informational, correspondence, argumentative, persuasive. All non literary passages cover subject area TEKS topics through the tested grade, most from science and social studies.

RLA blueprint reference: [RLA blueprint reference \(PDF\)](#)

What this means in your classroom: reading stamina is part of the test. Your students read four selections and write an essay in one sitting, so build sustained Spanish reading time across the year toward the word cap for your grade. Give weight to readiness standards while still teaching every tested TEK.

3. Item types on Spanish Reading Language Arts

Redesign law caps multiple choice at 75 percent of the test, so every form mixes in non multiple choice types.

Type	Points	What the student does
Multiple choice	1	Picks one correct answer.
Multiselect	1 or 2	Picks more than one correct answer.
Multipart	Parts score separately	Answers a two part question. Part B often asks for evidence for Part A.
Inline choice	Up to 2	Picks answers from dropdown menus inside the question.
Hot text	1 or 2	Clicks highlighted text as evidence in a sentence, paragraph, or passage.
Drag and drop	Varies	Drags responses to a chart, map, or target area.
Short constructed response (SCR)	Reading 2; writing 1	Writes a brief answer in the student's own words. Reading SCR uses an item specific rubric.
Extended constructed response (ECR)	10	Writes an in depth essay tied to a reading passage, informative or argumentative. Scored twice on a five point rubric: organization and development of ideas, plus conventions.

Item type references: [STAAR redesign scoring guide \(PDF\)](#)

[Non multiple choice item types quick look \(PDF\)](#)

What this means in your classroom: do not drill multiple choice alone. Every student will face dropdown, clickable evidence, drag and place, and two part items online, plus short written answers and one essay. Let students practice each type on screen during the year so the format never surprises them.

4. How SCR and ECR prompts are worded in Spanish

Only informative and argumentative essay modes appear on reading language arts. There is one ECR per test. Both frames below come from the 2026 Grade 3 scoring guide.

ECR frame (Spanish, grade 3 example about bees)

ENSAYO: Escribe tu ensayo en el recuadro de abajo. Lee la lectura (title). Basandote en la informacion de la lectura, responde a lo siguiente: (task, for example Explica por que son importantes las abejas). Escribe un ensayo informativo bien organizado que use evidencia especifica de la lectura para apoyar tu respuesta. Asegurate de: explicar claramente tu idea central; organizar lo que escribes; desarrollar tus ideas en detalle; usar evidencia de la lectura en tu ensayo; usar correctamente la ortografia, los signos de puntuacion y la gramatica.

Reading SCR frame (Spanish, grade 3 example about skating)

Lee la pregunta con cuidado. Luego escribe tu respuesta en el recuadro de abajo. De acuerdo con el articulo, que se puede inferir acerca de (topic)? Asegurate de apoyar tu respuesta con evidencia del articulo.

What this means in your classroom: the ECR frame names the idea central, evidencia de la lectura, and Spanish conventions (ortografia, puntuacion, gramatica). Teach the frame as the shape every essay answer follows, and score Spanish ECRs with Spanish conventions, including accent correctness.

Points for writing: a reading SCR is worth 2 points on an item specific rubric, a writing SCR is worth 1 point, and the ECR is worth 10 points on a five point rubric scored twice, for organization and development of ideas plus conventions.

Source: 2026 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)

10 points ride on one essay

The ECR is scored twice on a five point rubric: organization and development of ideas, plus conventions.

5. Reporting categories

Current Spanish blueprints report two areas: 1 Lectura (reading) and 2 Escritura (writing). The source for all counts in this section is the three Spanish blueprint PDFs.

Grade	Reading readiness	Reading supporting	Writing readiness	Writing supporting
3	12	19	13	12
4	13	18	12	12
5	13	18	12	12

Teach to all TEKS, whether readiness or supporting.

What this means in your classroom: readiness standards decide most of the points, so plan the most time there, but supporting standards still appear on every form. A student who only studies readiness leaves tested TEKS unseen.

6. How Spanish TEKS differ from English ELAR TEKS

The Spanish language arts and reading TEKS are authentic to Spanish literacy. They are neither translations nor modifications of the English TEKS.

Source: 19 TAC 128 and 19 TAC Chapter 128 (PDF)

Spanish specific strands to teach

- Syllable as the core phonological unit. Spanish has a close letter sound match and clear syllable boundaries, so syllabication carries more weight than in English.
- Accent marks: agudas, graves, esdrújulas, and diacritic tildes, plus why they matter for meaning.
- Spanish spelling patterns: b and v, c/s/z, g and j, silent h, ll and y, r and rr, diphthongs and hiatus, open and closed syllables.
- Spanish grammar: gender and number agreement, verb conjugation, and formal versus familiar address, which have no English parallel.

Phonics reference: SLAR phonics breakouts, grade 1 (PDF)

What this means in your classroom: never teach Spanish reading as English with swapped words. The strands above have no English parallel, so they need their own lessons, especially accents, syllables, agreement, and conjugation in revising and editing work.

7. What to look for in strong Spanish materials

Transadaptation, not translation. Spanish reading and writing tests are built separately from English STAAR rather than translated from it. Word for word translation changes item difficulty (a common word in one language can be rare in the other) and breaks validity.

Source: Transadaptation research handout (PDF)

Five signs of strong Spanish materials

- 1. Passages read as natural Spanish at grade level instead of translated English sentences. The tested skill stays identical, but vocabulary, syntax, and text flow are native.
- 2. Content stays culturally relevant and reviewed by Texas bilingual teachers. Every STAAR passage passes Texas teacher review for grade level, TEKS fit, bias, and access. The source is the Spanish blueprint PDFs, page 1.
- 3. Revising and editing items test Spanish specific skills directly (accents, syllables, agreement, conjugation), never English editing items with swapped words.
- 4. Passages respect Spanish text growth. Spanish runs longer than English for the same content, so strong materials hold to the blueprint caps: 2,740 words in grade 3, 3,040 in grade 4, and 3,190 in grade 5.
- 5. Essays follow the Spanish ECR frame (idea central, evidencia de la lectura, ortografia and puntuacion) and are scored with Spanish conventions, including accent correctness.

Warning signs in weak materials

Literal translation that shifts difficulty; cognates assumed known; idioms carried across languages; English sentence length forced onto Spanish; editing items testing English only skills; passages about unfamiliar cultural settings; accent errors in answer choices that create unintended clues.

What this means in your classroom: judge any Spanish passage set against the five signs above before you hand it out. If an editing item could have come from an English worksheet, or an answer choice drops an accent that gives the answer away, fix it or skip it.

8. How to use this guide with your students

- Teach the ECR frame until students can recite it: idea central, evidence from the reading, organized ideas in detail, and correct Spanish spelling, punctuation, and grammar. There is one ECR per test, worth 10 points.
- Teach the SCR habit the same way: answer the question, then support the answer with evidence from the article. Reading SCR answers earn up to 2 points on an item specific rubric.

- Build reading stamina across the year toward the cap for your grade (about 2,740 words in grade 3, 3,040 in grade 4, 3,190 in grade 5), because students read four selections and write an essay in one sitting.
- Cover every tested TEK. Readiness standards carry most of the points, and supporting standards still appear, so teach both.
- Give daily weight to the Spanish only strands: syllables, accent marks, Spanish spelling patterns, and agreement and conjugation. These are tested and have no English parallel.
- Read widely across genres during the year: fiction, poetry, drama, literary nonfiction, and informational pieces, most tied to science and social studies topics.
- Practice paired passages, where two passages are read together, since one set on every test works that way.
- Score class writing with the state rubrics in the scoring guides linked in section 1, including accent correctness, so grades in your room match the state scale.

Start with the scoring guide for your grade

Its student samples show what a 2 point reading SCR and a strong ECR look like in Spanish. Section 1 links every guide.

Sources: every link in one place

All facts above come from Texas Education Agency sources. Each section cites its link. The full list is repeated here so you can verify any fact in one glance.

TEA STAAR Spanish resources	TEA online practice site
TEA released test questions	Grade 3 Spanish blueprint (PDF, in Spanish)
Grade 4 Spanish blueprint (PDF, in Spanish)	Grade 5 Spanish blueprint (PDF, in Spanish)
Grade 3 assessed curriculum (PDF)	Grade 4 assessed curriculum (PDF)
Grade 5 assessed curriculum (PDF)	2026 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)
2026 Grade 4 scoring guide (PDF)	2026 Grade 5 scoring guide (PDF)
2025 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)	2025 Grade 4 scoring guide (PDF)
2025 Grade 5 scoring guide (PDF)	2024 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)
2024 Grade 4 scoring guide (PDF)	2024 Grade 5 scoring guide (PDF)
2023 Grade 3 scoring guide (PDF)	19 TAC Chapter 128 (PDF)
SLAR phonics breakouts, grade 1 (PDF)	RLA blueprint reference (PDF)
STAAR redesign scoring guide (PDF)	Non multiple choice item types quick look (PDF)
Transadaptation research handout (PDF)	