



TBASE STAAR/SST Scoring Validation Report

2026, Grades 3 to 5

Extended constructed response (ECR) scoring compared with official TEA score points



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TEA documents used, titles as published: Grade 3 Reading Language Arts Constructed-Response Scoring Guide (2026); Grade 4 Reading Language Arts Constructed-Response Scoring Guide (2026); Grade 5 Reading Language Arts Constructed-Response Scoring Guide (2026). Source URLs are listed in sources.csv with this report.

TBASE is a Teach BIG product. The results describe one scoring configuration on 39 published sample papers and should not be read as a claim about performance on other papers.

Exact
51%
20 of 39 papers

Adjacent (1 point off)
41%
16 of 39 papers

Exact plus adjacent
92%
36 of 39 papers

Teach BIG compared the live TBASE scorer at tbase.teachbig.com with the official TEA score points for the 2026 released Grade 3, 4, and 5 STAAR/SST extended constructed response (ECR) sample papers. TEA scores each ECR from 0 to 5. TBASE reports a STAAR/SST Score from 0 to 5, the sum of Organization and Development of Ideas (0 to 3) and Conventions (0 to 2), the same scale TEA uses. All 39 papers received a TBASE score.

Findings

- Across Grades 3 to 5, TBASE matched the TEA score exactly on 51% of papers (20 of 39), was within one point on 92% (36 of 39), and was 2 points away on 8% (3 papers, one per grade, listed on each grade page).
- By grade, agreement within one point was 92% in Grade 3, 92% in Grade 4, and 92% in Grade 5. Quadratic weighted kappa was 0.86, 0.83, and 0.89 (0.86 overall).
- On average TBASE is within a tenth of a point of the state in every year, so it does not lean high or low. In this year the mean difference, TBASE minus TEA, was +0.00 points.
- 5 papers received a zero because they did not answer the prompt in the first five sentences. TEA also scored every one of these papers 0.
- Leakage check: TBASE scores against TEA example papers, and every 2026 sample paper is excluded from those examples, so no paper in this test was used to score itself.

Exact and Adjacent Scores

An exact score means TBASE gave a paper the same score the state gave it. An adjacent score means the two scores are one point apart, higher or lower. Exact plus adjacent, or within one point, is the standard way to measure scoring agreement.

The STAAR/SST scoring system works the same way. Each response is scored two times. The two scores do not have to match exactly: as long as they are the same or adjacent, the two scores are added together. This is why some students receive an odd number score. The state does not simply double one score; two separate scorings can land one point apart, and both count. An adjacent score is part of how the state itself scores papers.

Source

Official TEA 2026 Grade 3, 4, and 5 Reading Language Arts Constructed-Response Scoring Guides (tea.texas.gov), extended constructed response section. Each guide has one ECR prompt with its passage and 13 sample student responses at TEA score points 0 to 5 (39 papers in all). The TEA total score is the sum of Organization and Development of Ideas (0 to 3) and Conventions (0 to 2). Student text was taken from the guides without editing.

Scoring path

Each paper was sent to the live TBASE site through a staff only validation endpoint that runs the same scoring code teachers use, including the first five sentences check, and writes nothing to the database. The TBASE STAAR/SST Score is the number compared with the TEA total. Scoring date: October 17, 2026.

Leakage handling

TBASE uses TEA scored papers from earlier released guides as scoring examples. Any paper whose id begins with 2026 is removed from the examples, so none of the 39 validation papers can appear in a scoring prompt. Papers excluded for leakage: 39 of 39 from the example set. Papers in the validation set: 39.

Definitions

Exact: TBASE score equals the TEA total. Adjacent: exactly 1 point apart. Within one point: exact plus adjacent. Off by 2 or more: listed by paper on each grade page. Quadratic weighted kappa (QWK): chance corrected agreement that penalizes larger misses more; 1.0 is perfect, 0 is chance, and above 0.80 is commonly read as strong agreement. Mean difference: TBASE minus TEA; negative means TBASE scored lower.

Exact
46%

6 of 13 papers

Adjacent (1 point off)
46%

6 of 13 papers

Exact plus adjacent
92%

12 of 13 papers

13 of 13 papers scored. Mean difference +0.15. QWK 0.86.

Paper id	TEA score	TBASE score	Difference
2026-G3-ECR-SP0-R1	0	0	+0
2026-G3-ECR-SP0-R2	0	0	+0
2026-G3-ECR-SP1-R1	1	2	+1
2026-G3-ECR-SP1-R2	1	2	+1
2026-G3-ECR-SP2-R1	2	2	+0
2026-G3-ECR-SP2-R2	2	3	+1
2026-G3-ECR-SP3-R1	3	4	+1
2026-G3-ECR-SP3-R2	3	2	-1
2026-G3-ECR-SP3-R3	3	3	+0
2026-G3-ECR-SP4-R1	4	2	-2
2026-G3-ECR-SP4-R2	4	5	+1
2026-G3-ECR-SP5-R1	5	5	+0
2026-G3-ECR-SP5-R2	5	5	+0

Confusion matrix (rows TEA score, columns TBASE score; counts)

TEA \ TBASE	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	2	.	.	.	.	.
1	.	.	2	.	.	.
2	.	.	1	1	.	.
3	.	.	1	1	1	.
4	.	.	1	.	.	1
5	.	.	.	.	.	2

Off by 2 or more points (1): 2026-G3-ECR-SP4-R1 (TEA 4, TBASE 2).

First five sentences check failed (score forced to 0): 2026-G3-ECR-SP0-R2.

Exact
46%

6 of 13 papers

Adjacent (1 point off)
46%

6 of 13 papers

Exact plus adjacent
92%

12 of 13 papers

13 of 13 papers scored. Mean difference -0.31. QWK 0.83.

Paper id	TEA score	TBASE score	Difference
2026-G4-ECR-SP0-R1	0	0	+0
2026-G4-ECR-SP0-R2	0	0	+0
2026-G4-ECR-SP1-R1	1	2	+1
2026-G4-ECR-SP1-R2	1	2	+1
2026-G4-ECR-SP2-R1	2	2	+0
2026-G4-ECR-SP2-R2	2	2	+0
2026-G4-ECR-SP3-R1	3	2	-1
2026-G4-ECR-SP3-R2	3	2	-1
2026-G4-ECR-SP3-R3	3	2	-1
2026-G4-ECR-SP4-R1	4	4	+0
2026-G4-ECR-SP4-R2	4	3	-1
2026-G4-ECR-SP5-R1	5	3	-2
2026-G4-ECR-SP5-R2	5	5	+0

Confusion matrix (rows TEA score, columns TBASE score; counts)

TEA \ TBASE	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	2	.	.	.	.	.
1	.	.	2	.	.	.
2	.	.	2	.	.	.
3	.	.	3	.	.	.
4	.	.	.	1	1	.
5	.	.	.	1	.	1

Off by 2 or more points (1): 2026-G4-ECR-SP5-R1 (TEA 5, TBASE 3).

First five sentences check failed (score forced to 0): 2026-G4-ECR-SP0-R1, 2026-G4-ECR-SP0-R2.

Exact
62%

8 of 13 papers

Adjacent (1 point off)
31%

4 of 13 papers

Exact plus adjacent
92%

12 of 13 papers

13 of 13 papers scored. Mean difference +0.15. QWK 0.89.

Paper id	TEA score	TBASE score	Difference
2026-G5-ECR-SP0-R1	0	0	+0
2026-G5-ECR-SP0-R2	0	0	+0
2026-G5-ECR-SP1-R1	1	2	+1
2026-G5-ECR-SP1-R2	1	2	+1
2026-G5-ECR-SP2-R1	2	2	+0
2026-G5-ECR-SP2-R2	2	2	+0
2026-G5-ECR-SP3-R1	3	2	-1
2026-G5-ECR-SP3-R2	3	3	+0
2026-G5-ECR-SP3-R3	3	5	+2
2026-G5-ECR-SP4-R1	4	4	+0
2026-G5-ECR-SP4-R2	4	3	-1
2026-G5-ECR-SP5-R1	5	5	+0
2026-G5-ECR-SP5-R2	5	5	+0

Confusion matrix (rows TEA score, columns TBASE score; counts)

TEA \ TBASE	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	2	.	.	.	.	.
1	.	.	2	.	.	.
2	.	.	2	.	.	.
3	.	.	1	1	.	1
4	.	.	.	1	1	.
5	.	.	.	.	.	2

Off by 2 or more points (1): 2026-G5-ECR-SP3-R3 (TEA 3, TBASE 5).

First five sentences check failed (score forced to 0): 2026-G5-ECR-SP0-R1, 2026-G5-ECR-SP0-R2.

- Small sample: one prompt per grade and 13 TEA sample papers per grade (39 in all). Each paper moves a grade percentage by about 8 points. TEA chose these papers to illustrate score points, so they are not a random sample of student work.
- Automated scoring varies slightly from run to run, mainly by one point on Conventions. The figures in this report come from one complete live run.
- One paper returned a temporary server error on the first attempt and was scored on a second attempt.
- TEA papers appear in the guides as typed text. Line breaks inside a response were collapsed to spaces.
- Only 2026 Grades 3 to 5 are covered. Earlier years and Grades 6 to 9 will follow.

This report describes measured agreement with TEA published score points. It does not show that TBASE matches TEA scoring on every unpublished paper.