



Garland 3rd Grade STAAR Power Pack

Fun visual cheat sheets for **Math** and **Reading Language Arts**

**READING WINDOW:
APR 7–10**

**MATH WINDOW: APR
21–24**

ONLINE TEST

What 3rd graders take: In Texas, grade 3 students take STAAR Reading Language Arts and STAAR Mathematics. Garland ISD's 2025–26 testing calendar shows the elementary reading window on **April 7–10, 2026** and the math window on **April 21–24, 2026**.

The Big Goal

- Show what she already knows.
- Stay calm, read carefully, and answer every question.
- Use scratch paper and the online tools wisely.

Good News

- STAAR is meant to match classroom learning.
- Practice tests from TEA show the format ahead of time.
- A few strong habits can raise confidence fast.

Parent Move

- Short study bursts beat marathon cram sessions.
- Celebrate effort, not just scores.
- Keep practice positive and steady.

Study plan that actually works: **15 minutes reading + 15 minutes math + 5 minutes review**. That is enough when it is focused and consistent.

1. Know the Test Without the Stress

What STAAR Looks Like

- It is an **online state test** for grades 3–8.
- Grade 3 uses the redesigned format with regular multiple-choice and other online question types.
- Practice tests from TEA let students see the real style ahead of time.

Question Types She May See

- Multiple choice
- Multi-select
- Hot text or hot spot
- Drag and drop / inline choice
- Short constructed response on RLA

Subject	Garland ISD 2025–26 Window	What to practice
Reading Language Arts	April 7–10, 2026	Reading passages, vocabulary in context, text evidence, short writing
Mathematics	April 21–24, 2026	Place value, word problems, multiplication/division, fractions, graphing

Fast confidence builder: pull one released TEA question at a time. Don't start with a whole test. Build wins first.

Before the Test

- Sleep, breakfast, water.
- Practice logging in and using the screen tools.
- Remind her: one question at a time.

During the Test

- Read everything twice.
- Cross out bad answers mentally.
- Mark tricky ones, then come back.

After the Test

- Do not replay every question.
- Praise calm effort and grit.
- Reset for the next day.

2. Reading Language Arts Cheat Sheet

The grade 3 RLA blueprint focuses on **reading** and **writing**. Most questions are worth 1 point, and a small number of short constructed response questions are worth 2 points.

When She Reads a Passage...

- Look at the title and first lines for the topic.
- Circle the who / what / where in her head.
- After each paragraph, say: "What was the main point?"

Top Skills to Watch

- Main idea and supporting details
- Character feelings, actions, and motivations
- Vocabulary in context
- Sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast
- Using text evidence to prove an answer

RLA Power Move	What it means	Why it helps
1	Read the question first	Know what you are hunting for before she rereads the passage.
2	Find proof in the text	The right answer should match words or ideas from the passage.
3	Cross out traps	Watch for answers that sound nice but are not supported by the text.
4	Answer in her own words when Feedback responses: answer, then give one clear piece of proof.	

2-Point Short Response Formula

1. Answer the question in one sentence.
2. Add proof from the text.
3. Keep it short and clear. No rambling.

Sentence Starter Help

"The best answer is ___ because the passage says..."
 "I know this because..."
 "The character shows this when..."

3. Math Cheat Sheet

The grade 3 math blueprint is heavy on **numbers and relationships**, **computation and algebraic thinking**, plus measurement, graphs, and personal financial literacy.

Number Power

- Read numbers in standard, word, and expanded form.
- Compare numbers using $<$, $>$, and $=$.
- Know place value up to the thousands.

Fact Power

- Know multiplication and division patterns.
- Use arrays, equal groups, and repeated addition.
- Check if the answer makes sense.

Problem-Solving Power

- Underline the question being asked.
- Draw a quick model.
- Estimate first, then solve.

Fraction Power

- Fractions are equal parts of a whole.
- Use pictures and number lines.
- Compare simple fractions by size and model.

Measurement Power

- Tell time and solve elapsed-time questions.
- Count money correctly.
- Measure length and know perimeter ideas.

Graph & Money Power

- Read bar graphs and pictographs.
- Look carefully at the scale or key.
- Know saving vs. spending basics.

Math move	Say this in her head
Estimate first	"About what should the answer be?"
Circle units	"Am I solving for dollars, minutes, inches, or pieces?"
Use the picture	"Can I draw groups, a bar model, or a number line?"
Check reasonableness	"Does this answer fit the problem, or is it way off?"

Common trap: kids often know the math but miss what the question is asking. Make her point to the exact sentence that tells what to solve.

4. Test-Day Power Moves

Brain Reset if She Gets Stuck

- Breathe in for 4, out for 4.
- Whisper in her mind: “Slow is smooth. Smooth is fast.”
- Skip the panic. Solve the next step only.

Online Tool Reminders

- Use scratch paper.
- Highlight key words when allowed.
- Use line reader / zoom if it helps her focus.
- Go back and review flagged questions.

Confidence Script

I do not need to be perfect.
I just need to stay calm, read carefully, and keep moving.
I know more than I think I know.

Night Before	Morning Of	After School
Backpack ready Early bedtime No last-minute cramming	Protein breakfast Water Positive pep talk	Snack Decompress No interrogation about every question

Best parent line: “**Just show what you know. One question at a time.**”

5. Quick Practice Round

Type	Try this	Hint
RLA 1	Which detail best supports the main idea?	Look for the answer that proves the big point — not just a random fact.
RLA 2	Why did the character do that?	Use clues from actions, feelings, and words in the passage.
RLA 3	What does this word most likely mean in paragraph 2?	Use the sentence around the word as a clue.
Math 1	3 groups of 4 = ?	Think repeated addition: $4 + 4 + 4$.
Math 2	Which number is greater: 482 or 428?	Compare hundreds first, then tens.
Math 3	What fraction is shaded?	Count equal parts carefully.
Math 4	A movie starts at 3:15 and lasts 45 minutes. When does it end?	Move forward by minutes in steps.
Math 5	Read the graph. Which category has the most?	Check the tallest bar or biggest count, and watch the scale.

Use this page like flash practice: cover the hint first, let her answer, then uncover the hint and talk it through.

6. Parent Action Plan + Official Sources

7-Day Prep Plan

Day 1: 10 RLA practice questions
Day 2: multiplication/division + time/money
Day 3: read one short passage and answer 4 questions
Day 4: fractions + graphs
Day 5: one mini mixed review
Day 6: light confidence review only
Day 7: rest, routine, calm mindset

Keep it light

Do not turn every mistake into a lecture.
Ask: “What clue did you use?”
Praise smart strategy, calm focus, and grit.

- Garland ISD Testing Calendar (2025–26): grade 3–5 Reading window Apr 7–10, 2026; Math window Apr 21–24, 2026.
- Garland ISD STAAR and STAAR EOC page: elementary STAAR includes reading and mathematics for grades 3–8.
- Texas Education Agency STAAR overview: STAAR is an online assessment for grades 3–8.
- Texas Education Agency Grade 3 Math Blueprint and Grade 3 RLA Blueprint.
- Texas Education Agency Released Test Questions and 2023 redesign practice tests for Grade 3 Math and Grade 3 RLA.
- Texas Education Agency New Question Types guides for redesigned STAAR.

Built for quick home review. For the most current official testing details and released practice content, use Garland ISD and TEA resources.