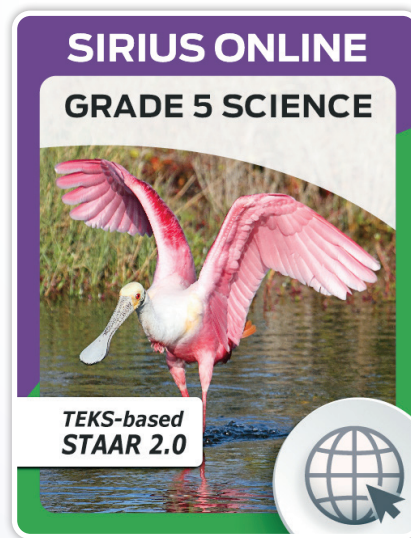


*Sirius Online 2023–24*

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

How to Implement *Sirius Online* in Your Classroom

## Grade 5 Science



# Welcome Educators

Welcome to the *Sirius Online* **Grade 5 Science Teacher's Guide**—a reference that helps you understand what resources you get and how you can best use them. We crafted it to save you time and help you avoid difficulties.

- *Sirius Online* is a supplement that **fills gaps** in adopted instructional materials by providing essential TEKS instruction and authentic STAAR 2.0 practice.
- Use *Sirius Online* **alongside your core curriculum** to ensure that your students learn exactly what they need to know and do on STAAR 2.0—its content (word problems), context (online and new question types), and complexity (rigor).
- With *Sirius Online*, your students will focus on the essential TEKS, including how they are tested in STAAR. By helping students apply science skills and concepts to solve STAAR word problems, Sirius **adds depth and rigor** to your curriculum.

We are honored to support you in helping your students succeed. Please contact us for assistance. **And thanks for all you do!**



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## Getting Started

### Start Here

Click [Introduction to Sirius Online](#) and work through this 20-minute video-based module. You can stop it and act on what you learn including:

- Adding courses
- Making classes
- Making Assignments

### Sirius Online System Tutorials

Tutorials provide information about the *Sirius Online* interface for students and for teachers. Add the **tutorials course** to each of your classes and begin with these introductions to become familiar with the platform.

#### FOR TEACHERS



#### Introduction to *Sirius Online*

To become familiar with *Sirius Online*, work through this teacher eLearning Module. It only takes about 20 minutes, and you can print a certificate to show completion.



#### Introduction to *Sirius Online* for Education Leaders

This eLearning Module is directed primarily at administrators and focuses on Reports. Review this at your leisure to understand what Admins see in their dashboards.

#### FOR STUDENTS



#### Sirius Tools Tutorial

This is an introductory tutorial about the *Sirius Online* tools. Sirius has the same tools found in the online STAAR tests. However, Sirius tools are slightly different in that they are easier to find and use with just one click—students don't have to use submenus. Use this tutorial with your students to familiarize them with the tools.

# A Comprehensive Supplement

*Sirius Online* supplements existing instructional materials by providing essential TEKS instruction and authentic STAAR 2.0 practice.

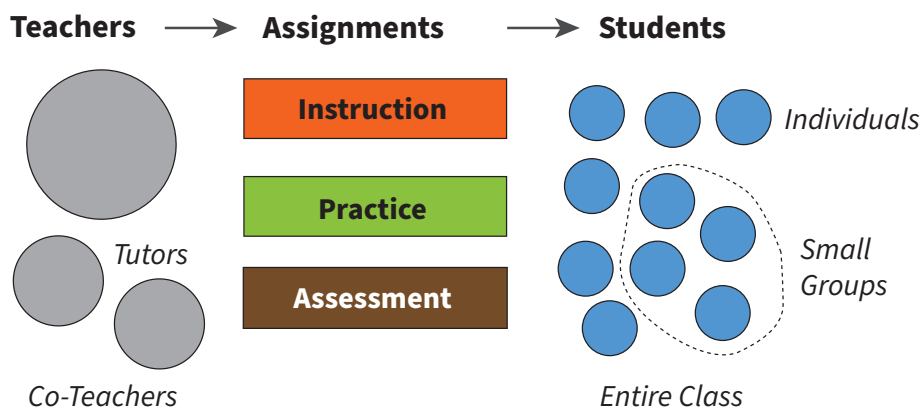
*Sirius Online* is a comprehensive supplement with three distinct assignments:

**Instruction** Explicit TEKS instruction uses the Gradual Release of Responsibility model.

**Practice** Authentic STAAR 2.0 practice empowers students with scaffolds and feedback.

**Assessment** Authentic STAAR 2.0 test items delivered with the similar STAAR tools / features.

Teachers and co-teachers can easily customize assignments for individual students, small groups, or the entire class.



## Using *Sirius* for Different Contexts

*Sirius Online* supplements a core curriculum with easy-to-use and adaptable resources for multiple implementation models, including different:

- **Time frames**

- **Fall Semester**

- Beginning of the Year
  - After First 9-week Benchmark

- **Spring Semester**

- After Mid-Year Benchmark
  - After Spring Break



- **Ability levels**

- Does Not Meet, Approaches, Meets, and Masters Grade Level

- **Groups**

- Whole Class, Small Groups, Partners, and Individuals



- **Instructional approaches**

- Teacher-led, Student-centered, Asynchronous, etc.



# Sirius Online Supports Differentiation

*Sirius Online* supports differentiation by empowering teachers to curate:

- **What** content to assign based on topic, TEKS, or student needs.
- **Who** to assign content to: whole class, small groups, individuals.
- **Pacing** of how many assignments and how fast they get completed.
- **How** assignments are conducted: from teacher-led to student-centered.

## Sirius Online and the RtI Framework

A practical approach to organizing the implementation of *Sirius Online* is using the Response to Instruction (RtI) model with Tier 1, 2, and 3 pathways.

### Sirius Online Provides Consistent Instructional Routines

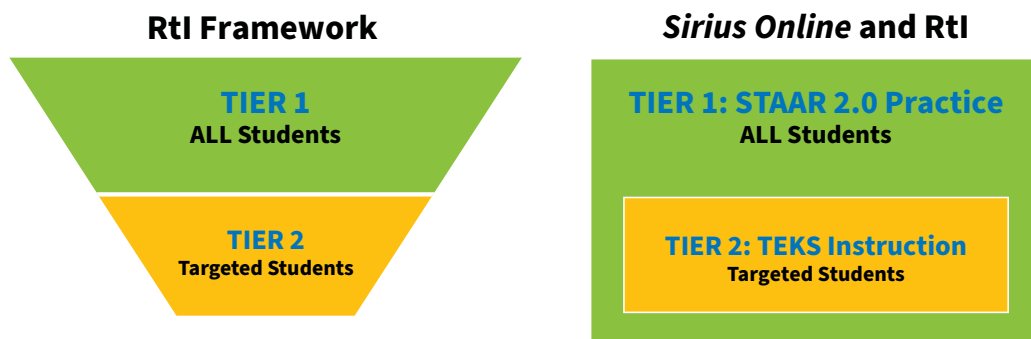
Research shows strong support for the RtI framework in improving learning for all students. With *Sirius Online*, you can create consistent instructional routines that support both Tier 1 and 2 students.

### The Need for High Quality Tier 1 Instruction

**All students** benefit from instruction that is aligned with exactly what students need to *know* and *do* on the STAAR tests. Students should get regular exposure all year long to learn the STAAR-tested thinking. This includes developing fluency with online testing tools and features.

### Aligning Tier 2 Support with Classroom Instruction

**Tier 2 and Accelerated Instruction students** often receive instruction that is unrelated to classroom instruction. *Sirius Online* empowers class teachers to guide group and individual interventions for struggling Tier 2 students. With *Sirius Online*, targeted students get explicit and systematic instruction in the essential TEKS.



## TIER 1 STAAR 2.0 Practice to Show Progress for ALL Students

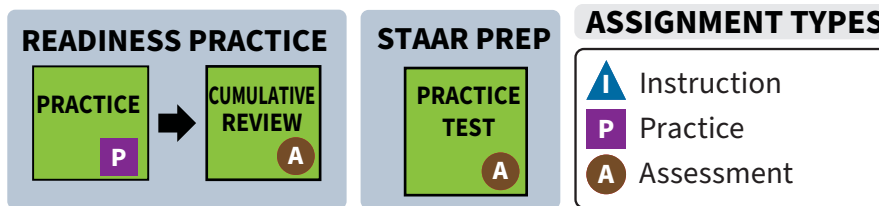
The new Texas accountability system emphasizes progress for all students, and rewards moving students to the Meets and Masters Grade Level. So throughout the year, all students should receive regular authentic STAAR 2.0 practice, as well as mixed and spaced review (Cumulative Review). This helps students transfer what they learn in class to the content and format of the online STAAR test.

### Scaffolded Practice Supports: Empowerment with Choice

Solving STAAR problems requires complex reasoning. *Sirius Online* empowers students to become more active and better problem solvers by giving students choices in how they navigate each **Practice** problem. Choice helps students feel more “in control” of their learning and encourages them to take greater ownership.

Below are the scaffolded supports that students can choose with rich feedback.

<b>Show Hint</b>	Gives a helpful tip before answering a question.
<b>Sample Answer</b>	Gives a full solution or explanation SCRs get sample answers.
<b>Submit Answer</b>	Gives immediate feedback on the answer selected.
<b>Try Again</b>	Gives another try after students receive feedback.
<b>Show Correct Answer</b>	Gives the correct answer and its feedback.



### A Practice Test Builds Confidence

In the weeks before the STAAR test, use the Practice Test as a full-length “dress rehearsal.” This builds test-taking confidence and provides high-quality data.

## TIER 2 TEKS Instruction for Targeted On-Level Support
























*Sirius Online* supports targeted TEKS-based instruction with on-level resources teachers can use to support struggling and Accelerated Instruction students.






In *Sirius Online* Reports, teachers can easily make individual or group assignments by TEKS to target specific needs.

# Assignment Planning and Pacing Guide




*Sirius Online* can be used over different time frames and for different needs. The table below shows two use cases: all students (Tier 1) and targeted students (Tier 2). Both uses can be combined by assigning additional resources for Tier 2 students.

<i>Sirius Online</i> Assignments		ALL Students TIER 1 (0.5 h / wk)	Targeted Students TIER 2 (1 h / wk)
<b>READINESS ASSESSMENT</b>			
<b>MODULE DIAGNOSTIC TEST</b>	A		
<b>INSTRUCTION &amp; PRACTICE</b>			
<b>MODULE PREVIEW</b>			
<b>LEARN</b>			
<b>PRACTICE</b>			
<b>PROBLEM SOLVING</b>			
<b>MODULE KEY CONCEPT REVIEW</b>			
<b>CUMULATIVE REVIEW</b>	A		
<b>POST ASSESSMENT &amp; PREP</b>			
<b>MODULE POST TEST</b>	A		
<b>PRACTICE TEST</b>	A		

## ASSIGNMENT TYPES

-  Instruction
-  Practice
-  Assessment

## PRIORITY KEY

-  Recommended: the suggested minimum
-  Encouraged: helpful in certain contexts
-  Optional: when time permits

## INSTRUCTION & PRACTICE DESCRIPTIONS

**MODULE PREVIEW** has a get ready activity and vocabulary activities.

**LEARN** instruction reinforces key skills and concepts for each Readiness and Supporting TEKS.

**PRACTICE** provides authentic STAAR 2.0 practice with robust scaffolds and feedback.

**PROBLEM SOLVING** gives scaffolded instruction and practice in solving STAAR items.

**MODULE KEY CONCEPT REVIEW** reinforces key concepts for each lesson in the module.

**CUMULATIVE REVIEW** provides mixed STAAR practice for spaced review.

## TIER 1 ON-LEVEL FOR ALL STUDENTS

Authentic and rigorous STAAR 2.0 practice and assessment so ALL students learn how to solve STAAR application word problems (many with a stimulus).

## TIER 2 ON-LEVEL FOR TARGETED STUDENTS INSTRUCTION

Scaffolded TEKS instruction gives Accelerated Instruction and struggling students an alternative approach for the most-tested TEKS.



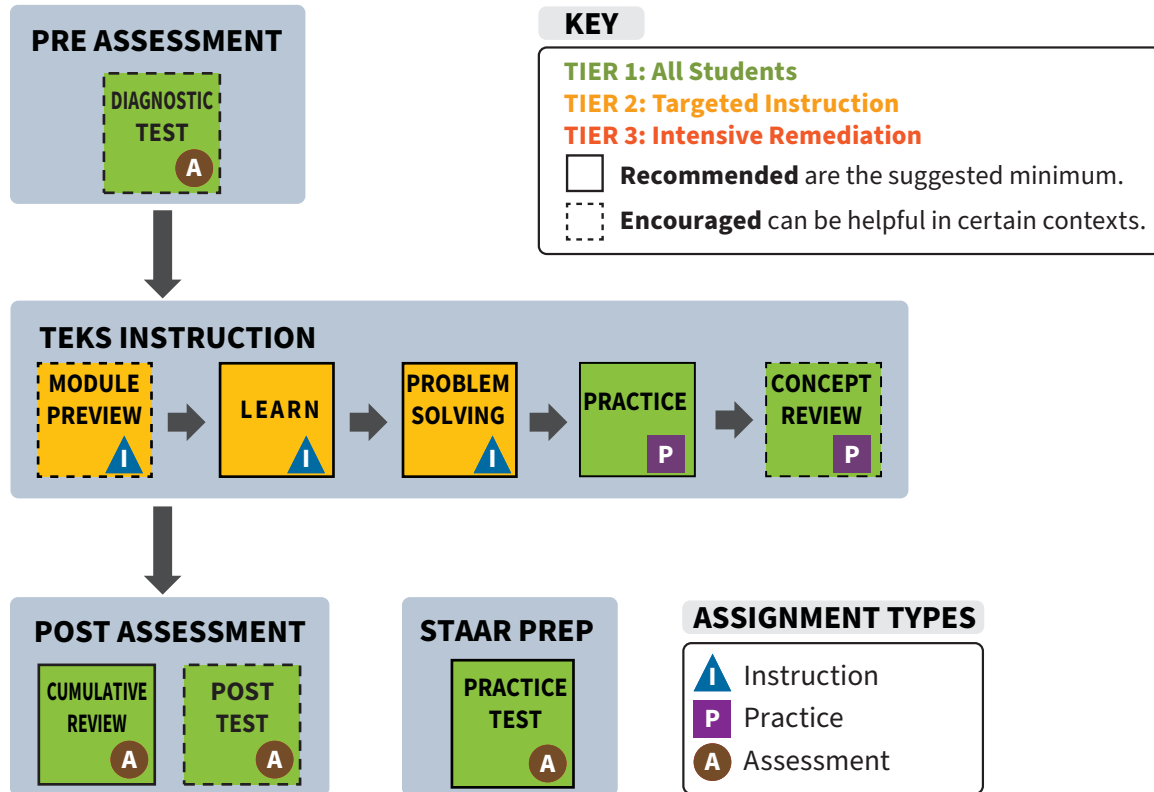
## Visualizing How *Sirius Online* Assignments Interrelate

*Sirius Online* is a comprehensive resource that supports many distinct student needs. Below is a visualization to show how the assignments can be coordinated for each of the Response to Instruction (RtI) pathways, as shown below.

### ON-LEVEL RESOURCES




**TIER 1** — All students get rigorous authentic STAAR 2.0 practice.

**TIER 2** — Some students get essential TEKS instruction.



# Three Assignment Types

*Sirius Online* is a comprehensive supplement with **Instruction**, **Practice**, and **Assessment**. All *Sirius Online* assignments fit into one of these three categories and each serves different instructional purposes.

Assignment Type	Question Types	Student Feedback	Delivery Mode	TEKS Alignment
<b>Instruction</b>  Explicit TEKS instruction and STAAR problem solving using the Gradual Release of Responsibility (GRR) model.	STAAR and non-STAAR format items	Immediate correct or incorrect	Practice mode	Lesson level
<b>Practice</b>  Authentic STAAR 2.0 items with instructional scaffolds to support problem solving.	STAAR 2.0 items only*	Immediate with support scaffolds	Practice mode	Each item
<b>Assessment</b>  Authentic STAAR 2.0 items with all online STAAR tools.	STAAR 2.0 items only	No immediate feedback	Test mode	Each item

\* The module review Key Concept Review use non-STAAR format activities.

## Question Formats

The focus of *Sirius Online* **Instruction** is on learning the TEKS skills and concepts. Therefore, individual questions may not be STAAR 2.0 items or even use STAAR item formats. In contrast, all *Sirius Online* **Practice** and **Assessments** are authentic STAAR 2.0 items in content, format, and rigor. Note that Grade 5 Science Module Key Concept Review and Module Active Review assignments are non-STAAR format practice.

## TEKS Alignments

**Instruction** assignments are TEKS-aligned as a whole or by subsection, but may also include prerequisite TEKS. In contrast, each item in **Practice** and **Assessment** assignments is TEKS-aligned just like STAAR.

## Assessments Use Test Mode

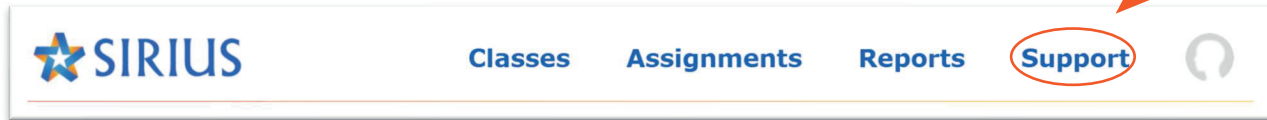
Unlike **Instruction** and **Practice**, all *Sirius Online* **Assessments** are delivered in Test mode—students do not receive any immediate feedback or Hints, and the final answer for each question is scored when the final Submit button is pressed. All Assessments are auto-scored except for the SCR items that require manual scoring.

# Getting Help



## FIND

*Sirius Online* Support is available directly inside the platform through the Support tab to the left of your profile image.



Our comprehensive, searchable knowledge base provides detailed step-by-step support instructions, including videos, and is available 24/7 [here](#).



## READ

The **Going Deeper** section of this Teacher's Guide—starting on the following page—provides more in-depth information about how to use *Sirius Online* in your classroom.



## CONNECT

You can quickly connect with Technical and Customer Support in multiple ways:

**Phone:** (800) 942-1379, Option 2  
Monday-Friday 7 am–6 pm CT

**Chat:** [www.SiriusEducationSolutions.com](http://www.SiriusEducationSolutions.com)  
Available all hours.  
Use to locate your sales representative and get order or product info.

**Email:** [Support@SiriusEducationSolutions.com](mailto:Support@SiriusEducationSolutions.com)

**Online Tickets:** <https://Sirius4Learning.zohodesk.com/portal/en/home>  
Create, view, and manage support tickets online.

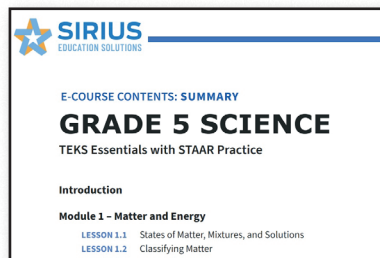
Explore in-depth information about *Sirius Online*, and recommendations for ways to implement *Sirius Online* in your classroom.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Course Contents

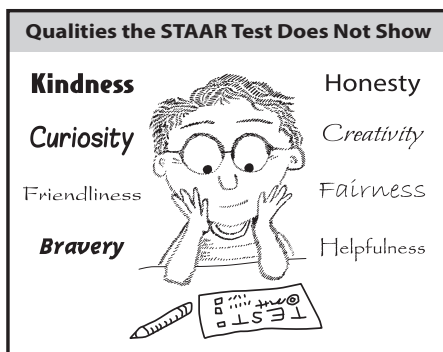
A Summary shows the course organization, and a Detailed View lists every assignment in the course.

The TEKS for each assignment is included unless it has multiple TEKS. Use the contents to help you plan when to use *Sirius Online* assignments.



### 1.2 Welcome Letter

The Welcome Letter introduces the *Sirius Online* Grade 5 Science course to students and seeks to provide context and motivation to students.



The Welcome Letter is available to students through the *Sirius Online* Grade 5 Science course. You will need to assign the Welcome Letter as an assignment for your students.

We encourage use of this activity to help students process their feelings about STAAR tests. STAAR tests measure a limited range of capacities, as shown by this comic.

We sincerely believe that students who learn exactly what is tested will indeed succeed and show progress.

## 1.3 Getting Familiar with STAAR Item Types P



### ASSIGNMENT TYPES

- I Instruction
- P Practice
- A Assessment

Getting Familiar with STAAR Item Types are introductory lessons about the new STAAR 2.0 questions. Students will practice these items throughout the course, so familiarity will become fluency, which will then lead to confidence.

**Multiselect Questions**

A multiselect item has **information**, **directions**, and **answer choices**.

Here is an example item.

A student has six cards. Each card is labeled with an element's name and chemical type as shown.

Helium nonmetal	Iron metal	Carbon nonmetal
Chlorine nonmetal	Hydrogen nonmetal	Sodium metal

Information

These lessons explain the different components of the STAAR questions, including information, directions, and actions.

The lessons also explain strategies students can use to answer the STAAR item types.

You can assign all Getting Familiar assignments at one time, but we suggest spreading them out and using them with Teacher-led instruction.

## 2 Assessments

*Sirius Online* includes several Grade 5 Science assessments for different purposes. On the next page is a description of each type of assessment with an explanation for when they can be used and the information they can provide to both teachers and students.

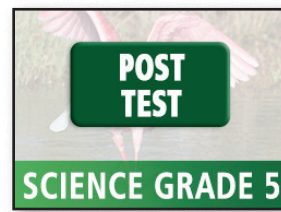
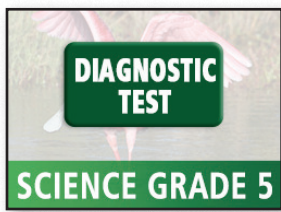
All *Sirius Online* Grade 5 Science assessments are **auto-scored** (except for SCR items) and **delivered in Test mode**—students do not receive any immediate feedback or Hints, and the final answer for each question is scored when the final Submit button is pressed.

NOTE: If students **Exit** out of an assessment before pressing **Submit**, their work is saved. Students can return to a saved assessment and change any answers before pressing Submit. To limit cheating, we recommend that all assessments be given in class, and ideally under simulated STAAR **testing conditions**. When students experience similar *feelings* to when taking the actual STAAR test, they get to rehearse this stressful context. This also results in more accurate performance data.

## 2.1 Module STAAR 2.0 Assessments

Module STAAR 2.0 Assessments are useful tools for teachers to check and monitor students' progress towards mastery of grade-level TEKS.

DIAGNOSTIC TEST <b>A</b>	POST TEST <b>A</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Efficiently assesses all tested TEKS with authentic STAAR 2.0 items</li><li>• Matches the format of STAAR 2.0 including new question types</li><li>• Use as a quick pretest or baseline</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A parallel form to the Diagnostic Test, assessing all tested TEKS</li><li>• Matches the format of STAAR 2.0 including new question types</li><li>• Can monitor progress and identify TEKS for additional review</li></ul>



## 2.2 Cumulative Review: STAAR 2.0 Assessments **A**

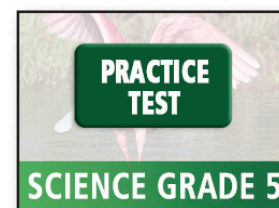
Provides *mixed* and *spaced review* of the most important tested TEKS with authentic STAAR 2.0 items. Items covering different TEKS are interleaved in an unpredictable sequence, to help students move from individual-TEKS-focused learning to becoming flexible STAAR problem solvers.



There are three Cumulative Review assessments, each longer than the preceding one, to include all previous Readiness TEKS.

## 2.3 Practice Test: STAAR 2.0 Assessment **A**

One full-length authentic STAAR test matches the STAAR redesign blueprint closely in all details. This test does not include additional field test items. It can provide insights into your students' likely STAAR test performance.



# 3 Lesson Instruction and Practice

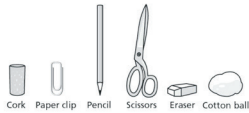
Lesson Instruction and Practice provides comprehensive instruction and practice in the most-tested TEKS. Each lesson has a sequence of **Instruction** and **Practice** assignments including prerequisite skills, TEKS instruction, scaffolded instruction in problem solving, and STAAR 2.0 practice, detailed below.

## LEARN

### Introduction

#### GET READY Sorting Objects

Suppose you have these objects to sort into two groups.



Systematic TEKS instruction in the skills and concepts that students apply in PRACTICE.

- Full TEKS review and reinforcement
- Step-by-step examples with full explanations
- Scaffolded Your Turn activities

## PRACTICE

In a science lab, students observed and recorded some properties of four liquids. The table shows their data.

Liquid	Mass (g)	Density (g/mL)	Color
Water	40	1.0	Clear
Corn oil	15	0.9	Yellow
Syrup	10	1.4	Brown
Rubbing alcohol	25	0.8	Clear

Then the students carefully poured the liquids into a graduated cylinder. After five minutes, the students observed that the liquids had separated into four separate layers.

Use the diagram below to show how the liquids were arranged in the graduated cylinder, based on the information in the table.

Move **ONE** correct answer to each box.

corn oil  syrup  rubbing alcohol  water

Ample and authentic STAAR 2.0 practice of the TEKS as they are tested in STAAR.

- 60%+ include a stimulus like STAAR 2.0 items
- Includes 25%+ new question types
- Hints and feedback help students build problem-solving capacities

## PROBLEM SOLVING

### GUIDED PROBLEM SOLVING

#### Read this challenging problem carefully.

A student is asked to design a sleeve for a cup that will insulate thermal energy and not feel hot to the touch when the cup is filled with hot liquid.



The student has four materials to choose from. Which of these materials is best suited as an insulator?

- A Cardboard
- B Aluminum

### PLAN and SOLVE

#### Read this student's thoughts and complete the statement.

GINA THINKS...  
I tried to choose an insulator for the cup's sleeve. I remember that an aluminum pot I filled with warm water got really hot. So I got an insulator.  
My parents buy coats with cardboard sleeves that don't get hot.  
My choice is A.



Ample authentic STAAR 2.0 practice of the TEKS taught in each LEARN as they apply to STAAR questions.

- 60%+ of items include a stimulus just like STAAR
- Includes new STAAR 2.0 question types
- Robust feedback in an online platform that closely matches STAAR

Teachers can group-assign all components of **Lesson Instruction and Practice** to all classes in one step.

Alternatively, teachers can customize by selecting some components and/or adjusting for different classes. Assignments can be made to groups of students within a class.

All assignments are auto-scored and provide students with immediate feedback.

## 4 Additional Module Resources

### 4.1 Module Opener: Getting Started **P**

Each of the four Reporting-Category-based Modules includes a single introductory assignment.

#### Preview

Each Preview assignment includes a dramatic visual introduction to the module that captures a memorable application. Students respond to a Get Ready activity with a short written response that helps students engage prior knowledge and content-based self-expression.

Students then complete a Vocabulary Review section on prerequisite terms and a short Vocabulary Preview section to interact with key new terms that will be presented in the Module.



### 4.2 Module Closer: Review **P**

Each of the four Reporting-Category-based Modules includes two Module concluding assignments.

#### Key Concept Review

Each Key Concept Review assignment reviews the vocabulary and key concepts of the Module. The review is organized by lesson with short summary paragraphs and interactions to help student discern the interrelationships among key terms.





## 5 Planning *Sirius Online* Implementations

*Sirius Online* was designed to help ALL students learn the tested TEKS in the context of how they are tested in STAAR. And *Sirius Online* is a comprehensive supplement that is easily adapted for a wide range of use cases and student needs.

For support in creating a unique implementation for your particular needs, you may want to consider the following questions to guide your planning.

### Questions to Guide Planning

<b>Intentions</b>	What are our goals?
<b>Evaluation</b>	What does success look like? How will we measure it?
<b>Obstacles</b>	What are our primary needs or challenges?
<b>Timing</b>	Where does the student instruction fit into the school year?
<b>Integration</b>	Where does <i>Sirius Online</i> integrate into the curriculum/classes?
<b>Coordination</b>	How does <i>Sirius Online</i> connect to your core curriculum?
<b>Needs</b>	What are the instructional pathways for different students?

There is no one best way to use *Sirius Online* because each classroom has unique needs. However, we strongly encourage implementations that extend throughout the full school year. Research shows that “cramming” is not effective for complex cognitive tasks, such as online STAAR word problem solving.

## 6 Instructional Tips for Using *Sirius Online*

### 6.1 Make a Commitment to Use *Sirius Online*

New habits do not just happen. They take deliberate effort. We encourage teachers to make a commitment to use *Sirius Online* (ideally each week), and to designate a certain day and time to assign, review student work, and plan for next steps.

In working with students, rhythm and routine can be powerful supports in encouraging them to apply themselves. Your internal commitment to use *Sirius Online* (something new) will be sensed and respected by students. Students tend to follow their teachers.

## 6.2 Use Instruction and Practice for Ungraded Activities

We highly recommend that **Instruction** and **Practice** assignments be ungraded. Research shows that students are more likely to take risks, make mistakes, and use the feedback to get better in low-stakes activities. In contrast, for **Assessments**, students should be focusing on getting the correct answer: performing instead of practicing.

Although teachers can convert **Practice** assignments into **Assessments** (so students get no immediate feedback), we suggest that this be used cautiously for special situations.

## 6.3 Release Assignments for Student Review

We encourage teachers to release assignments for students to review their work. Furthermore, teachers need to help students develop the habit of using the Review mode to analyze the items that they got correct and/or incorrect. In Review mode, students also get access to full solutions as well as the tools that they used such as Highlights, Sticky Notes, and feedback comments from the teacher. For assessments, you can simply delay the release of any assessment for review until all students have submitted it.


## 6.4 Build Teacher-Student Relationships

We encourage teachers to take advantage of the student Self Evaluation at the end of each **Instruction** and **Practice** assignment. Teachers can respond directly to each student's written response to encourage, support, and challenge them individually.

*Sirius Online* **Instruction** and **Practice** assignments ask students to reflect on their work with 3 end-of-assignment unscored questions:


- **Confidence** in what students learned/practiced
- **Effort** or how hard students tried
- **Reflect** or short written response (shared with teacher)

**CONFIDENCE** How confident are you in what you learned?



I'm confused      I feel okay      I feel pretty      I'm an expert!

**EFFORT** How hard did you focus or try?



Not Much Effort      Some Effort      Good Effort      My Best Effort

**REFLECTION** Complete one or more of the sentence stems below.

- I learned...
- I had difficulty...
- I feel...

Many students are poor judges of their **learning** and/or **effort**. Teachers should look for students who are particularly off—meaning their **performance** does not match their confidence and/or their **effort** does not match their **time on task**.

Understanding and working with students' self-perceptions can be a key factor in helping change student behaviors. Research shows that students' self-efficacy or beliefs may be the most important factor in student engagement.

Teachers can share observations including student written responses (anonymously) with the entire class. This shows the teacher is reviewing student work and that they are focusing on productive problem-solving behaviors instead of scores. When students feel seen, they tend to engage more deeply.

## 6.5 Focus on Problem Solving

### STAAR Grade 5 Science Tests Are Problem-Solving Tests

STAAR Grade 5 Science tests emphasize problem solving. So instead of recall, students need to apply their knowledge of Grades 3–5 science skills and concepts to solve application problems. In fact, the majority of Grade 5 Science STAAR test items include a stimulus of graph, table, or image that students need to analyze. Thus, STAAR test questions demand careful reading, identifying given information and what is being asked, integrating and applying Grade 5 Science concepts, and navigating new STAAR 2.0 question types as well as the online testing platform.

### Learning Problem Solving Is a Process: It Takes Time and Persistence

Helping students become better and more confident STAAR problem solvers is challenging and takes time. The learning process for problem solving is similar to riding a bicycle—students learn by doing it themselves. *Sirius Online* has ample practice with scaffolds that empower students to make choices and take greater ownership of problem-solving processes.

Thinking is hard work, and some students will be reluctant to apply themselves to diligently solving problems. But you cannot do the work for students. Some teachers need to be careful to monitor and limit the help that they provide students to avoid undermining the necessary struggle.

### Three Key Thinking Habits Teachers Can Promote

To promote careful thinking and problem-solving, we suggest teachers focus on positive affirmations for three common bad thinking habits (and related limiting attitudes). Teachers can repeat each phrase regularly, such as after a student request for help.

<b>Take time to think</b>	Get students to slow down and resist impulsivity!
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<b>Keep at it</b>	Get students to try again and practice persistence!
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<b>Consider all options</b>	Get students to be systematic and not rigid!
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For a singular instructional goal, we suggest anything that slows students down, so that they think more carefully. Most of human thinking happens fast and automatically. Careful and deliberate thinking takes time and effort.

# 7 Concluding Questions

## 7.1 What Is Special About *Sirius Online*?

### TEKS-Focused Instruction

*Sirius Online* supplements enhance existing instructional materials by providing essential TEKS instruction and authentic STAAR 2.0 practice. *Sirius Online* is used along with a core curriculum, not as a replacement. However, *Sirius Online* is needed because it fills instructional gaps in older adopted materials by closely matching STAAR 2.0 in all its details: content, format, and rigor.

### Problem-Solving Focus

Because the STAAR Grade 5 Science test focuses on problem solving, *Sirius* adds depth and rigor by helping students apply Grade 5 Science skills and concepts to solving problems. Learning to be a better problem solver is hard work. Because thinking is invisible, we cannot know for sure when students are thinking, and we cannot force students to think. But teachers can create the conditions that encourage and support thinking more deeply.

### High-Quality Feedback

Effective feedback enables learning and relies upon a culture that is open to using feedback to impact future choices—to feedforward. This is where *Sirius*' robust and high-quality feedback comes in. *Sirius Online*'s comprehensive feedback options are designed to empower students through choice, and to be supported by teachers who can focus on student learning.

## 7.2 How Do I Get Students and Parents to Support Use of *Sirius*?

Your belief that *Sirius* will help your students is the key, because this belief will be transmitted to students and parents in everything you say and do. Students and parents trust you and will see your sincere efforts to help.

No surprise, the more you understand *Sirius Online*, the better you can use and appreciate our value in helping you support your students in learning the essential tested TEKS and practicing them in the exact ways they are tested in STAAR 2.0.

Yes, *Sirius Online* can be an efficient way to improve your students' STAAR performance. But you are you are sharing with them a focus on a process of getting better at STAAR tested thinking. And all students can improve and show progress.

When talking with parents, it can be helpful to know how they perceive STAAR and testing in general. Because STAAR is a requirement, we suggest avoiding negative talk about STAAR tests. We encourage teachers to focus on students and their needs and how STAAR focuses on word problems.

This is the same message you communicate to students: you are helping them learn and practice Grade 5 Science problem solving, the thinking and rigor of STAAR. Complaining about STAAR to students can give them an excuse not to try their best and develop their capacities through hard work. And some students are looking for an excuse!



# Sirius Companion Workbooks

## *Blended Learning That's Easy to Use*

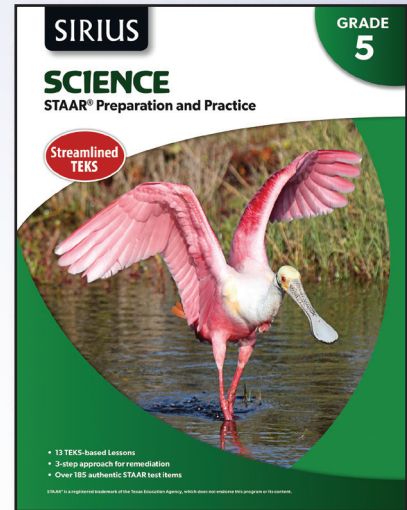
*Sirius Online* courses and our complementary print resources have similar organization and content so you can easily move between each medium, to adapt to best **serve the needs of your unique students**.

Many **struggling students often take greater ownership** of their learning when they can write in their OWN workbooks.

Additionally, students are better able to **transfer their thinking** processes to an online format when they see and experience the same content in both the print and online formats.

*Sirius Online's comprehensive courses integrate all* the content from our print-based workbooks and a full-length Practice Test. And with online resources, students get immediate feedback while teachers get auto scoring and powerful reporting.

You can register [here](#) to **examine our printed workbooks** as eBooks.



## *Sirius Online Is Research-Based*

Sirius uses established research and design principles to ensure its resources are effective and easy to use to **support teachers in helping students** learn the essential TEKS and succeed on STAAR tests.

**Sirius has partnered with McREL International** to research the following expected outcomes.

**McREL**  
INTERNATIONAL

### **Increased student:**

- STAAR test performance
- Engagement and motivation with STAAR content
- Confidence in answering complex STAAR questions
- Self-efficacy about improving STAAR test performance

Sirius Education Solutions is conducting **ongoing user-experience** and **efficacy research** to continuously improve the student and educator experience.

**Contact us to learn more and partner with us!**