**ATTACHMENT II**
**Text of Adopted Amendments to 19 TAC**

# Chapter 101. Assessment

## Subchapter BB. Commissioner's Rules Concerning Grade Advancement and Accelerated Instruction

**§101.2001. Policy.**

(a) School districts shall implement grade advancement requirements in accordance with this subchapter and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) procedures outlined in the official Student Success Initiative [~~Grade Placement Committee (GPC)~~] manual, published annually by the TEA. As specified in §101.2009 of this title (relating to Notice to Parents or Guardians), school districts will make public at the beginning of the school year grade advancement requirements as determined by the school district.

(b) In addition to local policy relating to grade advancement, except in cases where a student is testing above grade level as specified in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0211(o), a student in Grade 5 or Grade 8 shall demonstrate proficiency in reading and mathematics as required by the TEC, §28.0211(a), in order to advance to the next grade. The assessment grade promotion requirements of the TEC, §28.0211(a), shall be in effect beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Demonstrated proficiency is defined under this section as meeting the satisfactory passing standard on the appropriate assessment instruments specified by §101.2003(a) of this title (relating to Grade Advancement Testing Requirements) or on a state-approved alternate assessment authorized in §101.2011 of this title (relating to Alternate Assessment). The standard in place when a student first takes a Grade 5 or Grade 8 mathematics or reading assessment is the standard that will be maintained for all subsequent retest opportunities for that student. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency as described in this section may advance to the next grade only if:

(1) the student has completed the required accelerated instruction under §101.2006 of this title (relating to Accelerated Instruction);

(2) the student's Grade Placement Committee ( GPC ) , as specified in §101.2007 of this title (relating to Role of Grade Placement Committee), determines by unanimous decision, in accordance with the standards for promotion established by the local school board, that the student is likely to perform at grade level at the end of the next year given additional accelerated instruction. In accordance with the TEC, §28.021, to determine grade promotion, a school district is required to consider the recommendation of the student's teacher, the student's grades, the student's assessment scores, and any other necessary academic information; and

(3) in accordance with the TEC, §28.0211(n), the school district will ensure that a student who is promoted by a GPC under §101.2007 of this title shall be assigned in each subject in which the student failed to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under the TEC, §28.0211(a), to a teacher who meets all state and federal qualifications to teach that subject and grade.

(c) Students shall be provided accelerated instruction required by the TEC, §28.0211 and §39.025(b-1), as specified in §101.2006 of this title.

(d) A student in Grade 5 or Grade 8 may not be denied promotion to the next grade on the basis of failure to perform satisfactorily on a reading or mathematics assessment instrument intended for use above the student's grade level.

**§101.2003. Grade Advancement Testing Requirements.**

(a) Except in cases where a student is testing above grade level as specified in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0211(o), each school district and charter school shall test eligible students in accordance with the grade advancement requirements for the grades and subjects specified in the TEC, §28.0211(a). The assessment grade promotion requirements of the TEC, §28.0211(a), shall be in effect beginning with the

2012-2013 school year. These requirements apply to the following assessment instruments under the TEC, §39.023(a), (b), and (l):

(1) the reading and mathematics assessments at Grade 5; and

(2) the reading and mathematics assessments at Grade 8.

(b) An eligible student is subject to all of the grade advancement requirements under the TEC, §28.0211, including automatic retention, if the student is enrolled in a local school district or charter school on any day between January 1 and the date of the first administration of the grade advancement assessments, unless a student is administered an assessment instrument intended for use above the student's grade level as specified in the TEC, §28.0211(o). A student is only eligible to take an assessment instrument intended for use above the student's grade level if the student is receiving instruction in the entire curriculum for that subject.

(c) An eligible student who does not meet the criteria specified in subsection (b) of this section but enrolls in a local school district or charter school at any time after the date of the first administration of the grade advancement assessments is not subject to the grade advancement requirements. In accordance with §101.2001(b) of this title (relating to Policy), a school district or charter school must provide this student with the opportunity to test and access to required accelerated instruction.

(d) A student receiving special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, enrolled in Grade 5 or Grade 8 who is receiving instruction in the essential knowledge and skills in a subject specified under subsection (a) of this section is eligible under this section as outlined in the official Student Success Initiative [~~Grade Placement Committee (GPC)~~] manual published annually by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). In accordance with [~~§101.5(b) of this title (relating to Student Testing Requirements) and~~] the TEC, §28.0211(i), the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee shall determine appropriate assessment and accelerated instruction for each eligible student. Assessment decisions must be made on an individual basis and in accordance with procedures established by the TEA. These decisions shall be documented in the student's individualized education program.

(e) An English language learner (ELL), as defined by the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter B, who is administered an assessment in English or Spanish for a grade and subject specified in subsection (a) of this section, except as provided by §101.1005 of this title (relating to Assessments of Achievement in Academic Content Areas and Courses), is eligible under this section. In accordance with §101.1005(a) of this title, the student's language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC) shall determine the appropriate assessment and accelerated instruction for each eligible student. The Grade Placement Committee [~~GPC~~] , as specified in §101.2007 of this title (relating to Role of Grade Placement Committee), shall make its decisions in consultation with a member of the student's LPAC. Assessment decisions must be made on an individual basis and in accordance with procedures established by the TEA.

(f) As specified in §101.1005 of this title, decisions regarding assessments for ELLs who receive special education services shall be made by the ARD committee in conjunction with the LPAC.

(g) In accordance with the TEC, §28.021(b), decisions regarding a student who has dyslexia and is eligible under this section shall consider the student's potential for achievement or proficiency in the assessed subject.

**§101.2006. Accelerated Instruction.**

(a) Each time a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §39.023(a), (b), or (c), the school district or charter school shall provide the student with accelerated instruction in the applicable subject. A student failing to perform satisfactorily on an end-of-course assessment under the TEC, §39.023(c), must be provided the appropriate accelerated instruction before the next administration of the applicable assessment as specified by the TEC, §29.081(b-1).

(b) Accelerated instruction may require participation of the student before or after normal school hours and may include participation at times of the year outside normal school operations. Each school district and each charter school shall be responsible for providing transportation to students required to attend accelerated instruction programs if these programs occur outside of regular school hours.

(c) A school district must accommodate the request of an out-of-district student to participate in any established, on-campus summer accelerated instruction program, provided the student is living away from his or her home district and the program matches the accelerated instruction prescribed by the student's Grade Placement Committee [~~(GPC)~~] .

(d) Accelerated instruction shall be based on, but not limited to, guidelines on research-based best practices and effective strategies as outlined in the Student Success Initiative [~~GPC~~] manual, published annually by the TEA, which districts may use for developing accelerated instruction.

(e) In addition, for students who are administered state assessments specified under the TEC, §28.0211(a):

(1) a student who fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under the TEC, §28.0211(a), shall be provided accelerated instruction before the next administration of the applicable assessment as specified by the TEC, §28.0211. A student shall be assigned to an accelerated instruction group that does not have a ratio larger than ten students for each teacher; and

(2) a student who fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under the TEC, §28.0211(a), after the first, second, and third testing opportunities and who is promoted to the next grade level must complete, in accordance with state and local school board policy, all the accelerated instruction required under this section before placement in the next grade level. A student who fails to complete all the required accelerated instruction may not be promoted.

**§101.2007. Role of Grade Placement Committee.**

(a) In accordance with the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0211, the superintendent of each school district and chief administrative officer of each charter school shall establish procedures for convening a Grade Placement Committee (GPC) for each eligible student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on the second administration of the assessment required for grade advancement. In accordance with §101.2006(d) of this title (relating to Accelerated Instruction), decisions by the GPC shall be made on an individual student basis, address required participation of the student in accelerated instruction, and ensure the most effective instruction to support the student's academic achievement on grade level.

(b) The GPC shall be composed of the principal or principal's designee, the student's parent or guardian, and the student's teacher(s) of the subject of the grade advancement assessment(s) on which the student has failed to demonstrate proficiency. If this teacher is unavailable, the principal shall designate to serve on the GPC a teacher certified in the subject of the assessment on which the student failed to perform satisfactorily and who is most familiar with the student's performance in that subject area. If more than one parent or guardian has the authority to make educational decisions regarding the student, a good faith effort must be made to notify both parents, but participation of any one parent or guardian is sufficient. Either parent or only one guardian may initiate an appeal. If both parents or guardians serve on the GPC but do not agree, either may agree to promote the student if the remaining members of the GPC also agree to the promotion. The district may accept a parent's or guardian's written designation of another individual to serve on the GPC for all purposes. The district may accept a parent's or guardian's written and signed waiver of participation in the GPC and designation of the remaining members of the GPC as the decision-making entity for all purposes.

(1) If a parent or guardian or designee is unable to attend a meeting, the district may use other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual and conference telephone calls. The district may designate an individual to act on behalf of the student in place of a parent, guardian, or designee if no such person can be located. A surrogate parent named to act on behalf of a student with a disability shall be considered a parent for purposes of the TEC, §28.0211.

(2) The district shall make a good faith effort to notify a parent or guardian to attend the GPC. If a parent or guardian is unavailable, the remaining members of the GPC must convene as required by this section and take all necessary actions, except that the GPC may not agree to promote a student under the TEC, §28.0211(e), unless a parent, guardian, or designee has appealed. A district may allow an appeal to be filed in writing in lieu of attending the GPC.

(c) Within five working days of receipt of student assessment results for the second administration of the assessment required for grade advancement, the district shall notify the campus principal of student assessment results for each eligible student who fails to demonstrate proficiency. Upon receipt of this notice, the principal shall notify the teacher and parent or guardian of the assessment results. This notice shall include a description of the purpose and responsibilities of the GPC and the time and place for the GPC to hold its first meeting.

(d) In accordance with §101.2006(d) of this title, the GPC is responsible for prescribing the accelerated instruction the student is to receive before the third testing opportunity. The GPC shall also decide at this time whether the student shall take the assessment specified in §101.2003 of this title (relating to Grade Advancement Testing Requirements) or the alternate assessment, as authorized by §101.2011 of this title (relating to Alternate Assessment). In the absence of unanimous agreement, the student shall take the assessment specified in §101.2003 of this title.

(e) The GPC must convene again if a student fails to demonstrate proficiency on the third administration of an assessment required for grade advancement and is thereby automatically retained at the same grade level. Within five working days of receipt of student assessment results for this administration, the district shall notify the principal or principal's designee of student assessment results for each eligible student who fails to demonstrate proficiency. Upon receipt of this notice from the district, the principal shall inform the teacher and parent or guardian of the time and place for the GPC to hold a meeting. This notice shall inform the parent or guardian of the opportunity to appeal the automatic retention of the student. The district shall establish a procedure to ensure a good faith effort is made toward securing the parent's or guardian's receipt of the retention notification. The parent or guardian may appeal the retention by submitting a request to the GPC within five working days of receipt of this retention notification.

(f) If an appeal has been initiated by the parent or guardian, the GPC may decide in favor of promotion only if the GPC concludes, upon review of all facts and circumstances and in accordance with standards adopted by the local school board, that the student is likely to perform on grade level given additional accelerated instruction during the next school year. A student may be promoted only if the GPC's decision is unanimous and the student has completed all required accelerated instruction specified in §101.2006 of this title. The review and final decision of the GPC must be appropriately documented as meeting the standards adopted by the local school board and made in conformance with procedures specified in the Student Success Initiative [~~GPC~~] manual and as required by §101.2001(b) of this title (relating to Policy). These standards must include consideration of the following:

(1) the recommendation of the student's teacher;

(2) the student's grades;

(3) the student's assessment scores; and

(4) any other necessary academic information as determined by the district.

(g) In accordance with the TEC, §28.0211(e), the placement decision by the GPC shall be made before the start of the next school year or, if applicable, upon reenrollment of a student after this date.

(h) A student who has been promoted upon completion of a school year in a school other than a Texas public school may be enrolled in that grade without regard to whether the student has successfully completed an assessment required under the TEC, §28.0211. This subsection does not limit the authority of a district to appropriately place a student under the TEC, Chapter 25, Subchapter B.

(i) In addition to the placement decision, the GPC shall develop an accelerated instruction plan for each student who does not pass after three testing opportunities, regardless of whether the student has been promoted or retained. This plan shall include the accelerated instruction that the district must provide during the next school year. The plan must be designed to enable the student to perform at the appropriate grade level by the end of the next school year. The district shall establish a policy for monitoring the student during the school year to ensure that the student is progressing in accordance with the plan. The accelerated instruction plan must provide for interim progress reports to the student's parent or guardian and the opportunity for consultation with the teacher and/or principal as needed.

**§101.2009. Notice to Parents or Guardians.**

(a) The [~~As specified in §101.9 of this title (relating to Grade Advancement Requirements), the~~] superintendent of each school district or chief administrative officer of each charter school shall notify parents or guardians of the grade advancement requirements at the beginning of the school year.

(b) The district shall provide early notice to parents or guardians of students identified in a preceding grade to be at risk of failure on the first administration of the assessment required for grade advancement the next year. The superintendent must establish the instruments/procedures to be used to make this determination. This notice shall include accelerated instruction participation requirements as stipulated by §101.2006 of this title (relating to Accelerated Instruction) and be provided before the end of the school year preceding the grade advancement requirements.

(c) The district shall establish procedures to notify the parent or guardian of a student who has failed to demonstrate proficiency on the first administration of a grade advancement assessment. This notification should be made within five working days of district receipt of student assessment results from this administration. This notice shall include the student's assessment results, a description of the grade advancement policy, the required accelerated instruction to which the student has been assigned under §101.2006 of this title, and the possibility that the student might be retained at the same grade level for the next school year. In addition, the notice shall encourage parents or guardians to meet immediately with the student's teacher to outline mutual responsibilities to support the student during accelerated instruction.

(d) Whenever the district is required to notify a parent or guardian about the requirements related to promotion and accelerated instruction under §101.2006 of this title for students at risk of retention, including the notification requirements for the Grade Placement Committee under §101.2007 of this title (relating to Role of Grade Placement Committee), the district shall make a good faith effort to ensure that the notice is provided either in person or by regular mail, is clear and easy to understand, and is written in English or in the parent's or guardian's native language.

**§101.2017. Scoring and Reporting.**

In accordance with §101.3014 [~~§101.81~~] of this title (relating to Scoring and Reporting), the scoring contractor will provide school districts with the results of the assessments required by the Texas Education Code, §28.0211, or, if applicable, the results of the alternate assessment specified in §101.2011 of this title (relating to Alternate Assessment), within ten working days following the receipt of the test materials from the school district or charter school.