STATE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

5TH Grade
Students must pass the STAAR mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to the sixth grade.

8TH Grade
Students must pass the STAAR mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to the ninth grade.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
Students are required to pass the STAAR end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History in order to graduate.

For information on course requirements for graduation, please go to TEA’s website at http://tea.texas.gov/graduation.aspx.

STAAR Testing at Grades 5 and 8
Students have three opportunities to pass the STAAR mathematics test and three opportunities to pass the STAAR reading test—two during the spring and one during the summer. The exact test dates are available at http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/calendars/.

If you have questions about the state requirements for the Student Success Initiative, please contact your school’s principal or go to TEA’s website at http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ssi/.

For information about ordering additional copies of this brochure, call 855-333-7770.

Prepare for Success
A PARENT GUIDE TO THE
Student Success Initiative
AT GRADES 5 AND 8

Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division
Curriculum Standards and
Student Support Division

STATE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS
The Student Success Initiative

State Law Requirements

The Student Success Initiative (SSI) was created by the Texas Legislature to ensure that all students receive the instruction and support they need to be academically successful in mathematics and reading.

Under the SSI grade advancement requirements, students are required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) grade 5 mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to sixth grade. Students are required to pass the STAAR grade 8 mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to ninth grade.

In addition to the SSI grade advancement requirements, state law mandates that high school students must not only meet all course requirements but also pass the STAAR end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History to receive a diploma from a Texas public high school.

What Happens at Grades 5 and 8?

Students in grades 5 and 8 have three opportunities to pass the STAAR mathematics test and three opportunities to pass the STAAR reading test. If a student does not pass one or both tests, the school must give the student additional instruction after each testing opportunity, and the student must participate in that instruction. Parents will be notified if their child does not pass one of these STAAR tests that are required for promotion.

Parents’ Role in the Process

A student who does not pass the STAAR mathematics or reading test after the third testing opportunity will be automatically retained. However, the student’s parents may appeal the decision to have their child repeat the grade by submitting a request to the GPC within five working days of receiving the retention notice. The GPC may decide to promote a student to the next grade, but only if everyone on the committee agrees that the student is likely to succeed in the next grade. Even if the GPC decides to promote the student, the student must participate in the required additional instruction in order to be promoted.

Parents may request a waiver of the third testing opportunity if they do not want their child to test. If the waiver is approved, the student is automatically retained, but the parents may still appeal the retention. A student must participate in all additional instruction required by the GPC, even if the third testing opportunity is waived.

For information about how SSI applies to students who receive special education services, check with the special education contact on your campus.

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