STATE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

Grade 5
Students must pass the STAAR mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to grade 6.

Grade 8
Students must pass the STAAR mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to grade 9.

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. Exact test dates can be found on the Testing Calendars webpage.

More information concerning SSI requirements can be found on the TEA’s Student Assessment Division’s website, or you may contact your school’s principal.

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

REVISED AUGUST 2020
The Student Success Initiative

State Law Requirements
The Texas Legislature created the Student Success Initiative (SSI) 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 grade 6. Students are required to pass the STAAR grade 8 mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to grade 9.

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 provide the student with accelerated instruction after each testing opportunity, and the student must participate in that accelerated instruction. The school will notify parents if their child does not pass one of these STAAR tests that are required for promotion.

If a student has not passed the STAAR mathematics and/or reading test at grade 5 or 8 after the second testing opportunity, the school will form a grade placement committee (GPC). The GPC, which consists of the principal, teacher, and parent or guardian, will create an instructional plan based on the individual needs of the student.

Parents’ Role in the Process
The school will automatically retain a student who does not pass the STAAR mathematics and/or reading test at grade 5 or 8 after the third testing opportunity. However, the student’s parents or guardians 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 unanimously 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 all the required accelerated instruction 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 accelerated 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.

Each year, students who take a STAAR test receive a STAAR Report Card which provides more information about how they performed and in which areas they might need additional support.