House Bill 4545 recently passed in the 87th Regular Legislative Session. HB 4545 establishes new requirements for supplemental accelerated instruction for students who do not pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®). The new statute is effective, as of June 16, 2021, with supplemental accelerated instruction practices required during the 2021-2022 school year for all students, based on STAAR results from Spring 2021.

What is included in HB 4545?

HB 4545 requires Texas school districts to implement at a minimum supplemental accelerated instruction, an accelerated learning committee, and modified teacher assignments based on the following requirements:

- Elimination of grade retention and retesting requirements in grades 5 and 8.
- For any student who does not pass the STAAR test in grade 3, 5, or 8 in math or reading, a new LEA requirement to establish an accelerated learning committee to develop an individual educational plan for the student and monitor progress.
- For any student who does not pass the STAAR test in grades 3–8 or STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments, clarification of prior supplemental accelerated instruction requirements, specifying that it must include either:
  - Being assigned a classroom teacher who is a certified master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or
  - Receiving supplemental instruction (tutoring) before or after school, or embedded in the school day.

What is my district required to do this school year?

School Districts should evaluate the spring 2021 STAAR scores to identify students who will require supplemental accelerated instruction that complies with the new requirements of HB 4545 during the 2021-2022 school year. At a high level, this includes:
School Year 2021-2022

Provide supplemental accelerated instruction beginning in the Fall of 2021 for any student who did not perform satisfactorily on the STAAR grades 3-8 or STAAR EOC assessments. Supplemental accelerated instruction entails:

- assigning a classroom teacher who is a certified master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or
- delivering supplemental instruction (e.g., tutoring) before or after school, or embedded in the school day and meeting HB 4545 requirements.

Establish Accelerated Learning Committees before the start of the school year: For students who did not perform satisfactorily on the STAAR assessment in grades 3, 5, or 8 math and/or reading.

Establish Board policy: Establish a process allowing parents/guardians of a student who did not perform satisfactorily on the grades 3, 5, or 8 math and/or reading assessment to make a request for the student to be assigned to a particular classroom teacher.

What is my district required to do in the future?

School Year 2022-2023 and beyond

Continue to provide supplemental accelerated instruction in the subsequent summer and school year: For any student who did not perform satisfactorily on STAAR grades 3-8 or EOC assessments. The details above continue to apply in subsequent school years and should be guidance districts follow for the 2022-2023 school year ad beyond.

Establish Accelerated Learning Committees and develop individual plans prior to the subsequent school year: After student STAAR scores are received which may take place before the end of that school year or during the summer and prior to the start of the school year.

Where can I find additional information on HB 4545?

Questions regarding the implementation of HB 4545 should be submitted in writing to accelerated.instruction@tea.texas.gov. Answers will also be added on a rolling basis to the FAQ document. School districts can also find additional accelerated learning resources on the Texas Education Agency website and via mini webinars.