

General Description:

In 2021, the 87th Legislature passed HB 4545 which clarifies the definition of accelerated instruction, prescribes specific tutoring requirements as “supplemental instruction,” and requires districts to support students performing below grade level via a master teacher or supplemental instruction.

Key Points:

- For any student who does not perform satisfactorily on a State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam or end of course (EOC) exam, districts can place that student with a certified **master, exemplary, or recognized teacher** – as designated by the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TEC §48.112) - in the respective subject(s) **OR** offer that student **30 hours of supplemental instruction** per respective subject(s) in the subsequent summer or school year. Supplemental instruction can take place after school, before school, or embedded in the school day under a 3:1 student to teacher ratio.
- Requires the establishment of an accelerated learning **committee for students who did not meet grade level in grades 3, 5, and 8** STAAR Math and/or Reading to develop tailored education plans and monitor student progress.
- Eliminates grade retention in grades 5 and 8.

Eligibility:

Any school district or charter school serving 1 or more student(s) performing under grade level is required to implement one or more of these supports. Approximately 1.3 million students were required to receive support after the 2021 spring administrations of STAAR and EOC exams

Authority: Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0211

Funding: All funds to support HB 4545 implementation have been allocated from Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. No state funds were assigned to the passage of HB 4545 and no fiscal impact was budgeted for districts to fulfill these requirements.

High Impact Tutoring (HIT):

In the Spring of 2021, TEA developed an initiative to provide tutoring supports to districts through the **Texas COVID Learning Acceleration Supports (TCLAS)** grant. This initiative awarded grantees:

- direct grant funds** of \$300 per student needing tutoring support and \$2,000 per tutor (up to \$400,000 total) for additional staffing and content-related costs associated with the implementation of HB 4545 requirements.
- subsidized licenses to online math and reading platforms** that could be implemented within a tutoring program

Districts participating in **TCLAS D6: Tutoring** may use their grant award to support their 4545 efforts in accordance with a local plan to scale 4545 minimum requirements into High Impact Tutoring (HIT) best practice.

All 20 regional **Education Service Centers (ESCs)** were given a grant of no less than \$800,000 to provide technical assistance, training, and recruitment support for highly qualified tutors to assist LEAs in maintaining HIT efforts.

Available Funding Streams to Support 4545 Implementation

Local ESSER Funds	Per LEA		Expiration
ESSER I	<i>Depends on Title I Part A funding</i>		Sept. 2022
ESSER II			Sept. 2023
ESSER III			Sept. 2024
State Discretionary ESSER Funds through Texas COVID Learning Acceleration Supports (TCLAS)	Per LEA	Opt-ins	Expiration
TCLAS Decision 6: Tutoring	\$400,000 max	294 LEAs	July 2024
TCLAS Decision 11: Afterschool Tutoring	\$300,000 max	139 awardees	July 2024

Evaluation: STAAR data from 2022 indicates that more students have met the “approaches” standard than in 2021, which aligns with the first full year of HB 4545 implementation. While this is a positive trend, that percentage of students meeting the “approaches” standard has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels and additional learning acceleration supports is warranted. It is important to note that during this time there has been increased normalcy in schools, and there have been numerous other supports for schools that were put into place to support learning acceleration. The table below presents the changes between 2019 and 2021, and 2021 to 2022.

STAAR Test	Change Approaches % (2019 to 2021)	Change Approaches % (2021 to 2022)
3 rd grade math	-17	+9
3 rd grade reading	-8	+9
5 th grade math	-14	+6
5 th grade reading	-5	+9
8 th grade math	-21	+9
8 th grade reading	-5	+9

*The Strong Foundations Grant money goes directly to supports for students to be reading by 3rd grade. The funds to support HB 4545 and high impact tutoring is ESSER III (& some of I and II should the LEA choose to utilize it).