

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.



Parents:

As of July 27, 2020, TEA has waived the grade promotion requirements of SSI due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students in grades 5 and 8 will now be tested only once (in May, 2021), and will not be retained if they do not pass either the STAAR Reading or Math tests.

However, students who have previously failed a STAAR Reading or Math test must still receive accelerated instruction and parents must still be provided with this notice. If you have any questions, please contact your campus administrator.

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.



Texas Education Agency

Student Assessment Division
Curriculum Standards and
Student Support Division



Prepare for Success

A PARENT GUIDE
TO THE

Student Success Initiative

AT GRADES 5 AND 8



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.

Follow
4 EASY STEPS to...



1

Get your child's **Unique Access Code** from your district or the cover of the STAAR Report Card.

2

Visit
TexasAssessment.gov.



3

Log In with your child's Unique Access Code or click the Find My Access Code link at TexasAssessment.gov.

4

Learn More about your child's performance, test questions and responses, and how you can provide additional support at home.



AS PARENTS, YOU ARE CRITICAL PARTNERS IN YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is committed to making sure you are informed and have an accurate picture of your child's progress. Follow these 4 steps to Log in & Learn More.

