



**Special Education
Program and
Psychological
Services**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

8/26/19

HB 657 states that if a 5th or 8th grade student receiving special education services does not perform satisfactorily on STAAR in reading or mathematics, the ARD committee must meet prior to the second administration of the test. The ARD committee must determine the manner in which the student will participate in an accelerated instruction program and whether the student will be promoted or retained.

Your student will be affected by the State's Student Success Initiative requirements this year: This requirement includes up to two retests in order to give each student the opportunity to pass.

Students, who receive special education services and who fail to meet standards on the Reading or Mathematics assessment, will have an ARD Committee meeting conducted on their behalf prior to the second test administration. At this ARD, three items will be decided upon:

1. Will the student be required to take another test administration?
2. If the student will have subsequent retests waived, will the student be promoted based on the academic progress demonstrated in their Individual Education Plan or retained at their current grade level?
3. How will the student participate in an Accelerated Instruction Program in the subject area(s) in which state standards were not met?

We hope that this will clarify the options available and help you prepare for important decisions that may need to be addressed as your child continues to pursue academic excellence. We are excited to work with you to ensure your child's needs are met as we continue to have high expectations for all students in our district.

Additional information regarding promotion can be found in the Student Success Initiative (SSI) Manual, which can be accessed online at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ssi/>.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Special Education Campus Coordinator.

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