

## STATE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS



### STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> Grade

Students must pass the STAAR mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to the sixth grade.

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade

Students must pass the STAAR mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to the ninth grade.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to pass the STAAR end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History in order to graduate.

For information on course requirements for graduation, please go to TEA's website at <http://tea.texas.gov/graduation.aspx>.

## 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. The exact test dates are available at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/calendars/>.



If you have questions about the state requirements for the Student Success Initiative, please contact your school's principal or go to TEA's website at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ssi/>.

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 2018

# The Student Success Initiative

## State Law Requirements

The Student Success Initiative (SSI) was created by the Texas Legislature 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 sixth grade. Students are required to pass the STAAR grade 8 mathematics and reading tests to be promoted to ninth grade.

In addition to the SSI grade advancement requirements, state law mandates that high school students must not only meet all course requirements but also pass the STAAR end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History to receive a diploma from a Texas public high school.

## 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 give the student additional instruction after each testing opportunity, and the student must participate in that instruction. Parents will be notified if their child does not pass one of these STAAR tests that are required for promotion.

If a student has not passed after the second testing opportunity, a grade placement committee (GPC) is formed. 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

A student who does not pass the STAAR mathematics or reading test after the third testing opportunity will be automatically retained. However, the student's parents 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 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 the required additional instruction in order 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 additional 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 in grades 3–8 receive a STAAR Report Card that provides more information about the test questions, how your child performed, and where your child may need additional support.

Follow  
**4 EASY  
STEPS** to...



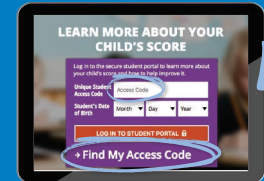
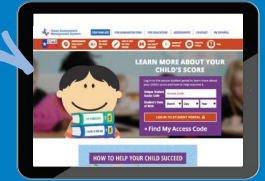
**1**

Get your child's **STAAR Access Code** from your school or district.

**2**

Visit

**TexasAssessment.com.**



**3**

**Log In** with your child's STAAR Access Code or use the Access Code

**Look-up Feature** at TexasAssessment.com.

**4**

**Learn More** about your child's performance, including how questions were answered, and how you can provide additional support at home.



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

The Texas Education Agency 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.

