

**Parent Notification of Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI)
State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®)**

Lumberton Independent School District

09-28-2020

Dear Parents of ***Lumberton Intermediate and Lumberton Middle Schools***

This letter is to inform you of the grade advancement requirements of the Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI), passed by the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that every student makes the academic progress necessary to show sufficient understanding of the knowledge and skills taught and tested at each grade level.

The SSI requires that grade 5 and grade 8 students meet the passing standards on STAAR tests in mathematics and reading before they can be promoted to the next grade; however, this requirement has been waived for the 2020–2021 school year due to the current health crisis. Students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 are still required to take each STAAR test once in May 2021. Retest opportunities will not be provided this year. Our district will have local discretion on whether students who do not pass the STAAR should advance to the next grade, just like students in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7. These decisions will be based on local criteria that reflect a student's academic achievement and mastery of subject matter and will include STAAR assessment results, along with other relevant information.

Please note that these testing requirements are part of an overall system of support for student academic achievement. For the 2020–2021 school year, this system includes

- evaluation of student needs at grades that precede SSI grades and academic support for students who need additional instruction,
- ongoing evaluation of student progress during the school year with assistance provided to all students with identified academic weaknesses,
- additional instruction after the May test administration for students who do not meet the passing standard on a subject-area test, and
- an instructional plan for the next school year for every student who did not meet the passing standard.

The 85th Texas Legislature passed legislation (HB 657) which pertains to students who receive special education services under Texas Education Code, Chapter 29, subchapter A.

- All students taking state assessment (STAAR), including students receiving special education services, are subject to grade-advancement requirements and participation in an accelerated instruction program. However, HB 657 requires the Admission, Review, Dismissal (ARD) committee to make decisions regarding both grade placement and participation in an accelerated instruction program in certain circumstances.
- 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/>.

The SSI recognizes and supports the important role parents play in the education of their children. Your child's teacher(s) and I depend upon and look forward to working with you to help your child succeed.

Sincerely,

***LIS Campus Principal
LMS Campus Principal
BTC Director***