

**Parent Notification of Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI)
State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)
Milano Elementary School
Milano ISD**

Date: **August 25, 2017**

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you of the grade advancement requirements of the Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI), which was 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 a 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.

Please note that these testing requirements are part of an overall system of support for student academic achievement. 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;
- three opportunities to pass the state assessments;
- additional instruction after each test administration for students who do not meet the passing standard on a subject-area test;
- a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal, teacher, and parent or guardian, that meets when a student has not met the passing standard after two testing opportunities and that decides the most effective way to support the child's academic success; and
- an instructional plan for the next school year for every student who has not met the passing standard after three opportunities, regardless of whether the student is retained or, upon parent appeal, is promoted by the grade placement committee.

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. To provide you with additional information about the SSI promotion requirements, I have enclosed a brochure titled *Prepare for Success*. This brochure includes an explanation of the state law, suggestions for how families can help, and available resources for further information.

Sincerely,



**Courtney Todd, Principal
Milano Elementary School**

STATE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS



STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

5TH Grade

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

8TH Grade

Students must pass the STAAR reading and mathematics 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, biology, English I, English II, 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 reading test and three opportunities to pass the STAAR mathematics 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 SSI, 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 Division



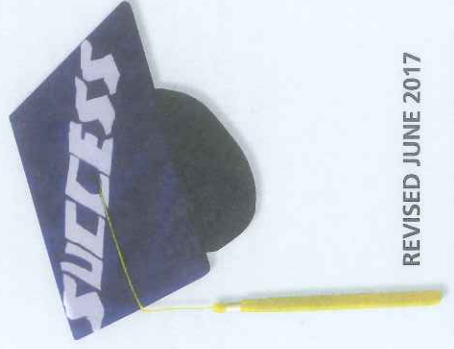
Prepare for Success

A PARENT GUIDE

TO THE

Student Success Initiative

AT GRADES 5 AND 8



REVISED JUNE 2017

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 reading and mathematics.

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. Additionally, 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 reading test and three opportunities to pass the STAAR mathematics tests. 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 a STAAR test that is 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 the Student Success Initiative applies to students receiving special education services, check with the special education contact on your campus.

Each year, students in grades 3–8 take STAAR tests in math and reading. The report you'll receive provides more information about the test questions, how your child performed, and where your child may need additional support.

Follow
3 EASY
STEPS to

LOG IN &
LEARN MORE



1 go to TexasAssessment.com

Find the code



2 Find your child's unique

access code or click "Where's My Unique Access Code?" at TexasAssessment.com

here's the code

3



Enter the code to get detailed information on your child's performance, including what questions they answered correctly, and how you can support them at home.

PARENTS ARE CRITICAL PARTNERS IN YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS.

The Texas Education Agency is committed to making sure you have an accurate picture of your child's progress. When you get your child's scores, be sure to Log In & Learn More.

