

August 31, 2017

Swisher Briscoe SSA
702 NW 8th Street
Tulia, Texas 79088

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The 85th Texas Legislature recently 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, in certain circumstances HB 657 requires the Admission, Review, Dismissal (ARD) committee to make decisions regarding both grade placement and participation in an accelerated instruction program.

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.

When deciding between promotion and retention, the ARD committee may promote the student if the student made sufficient progress on the measurable academic goals in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), despite not performing satisfactorily on the reading or mathematics STAAR test. If promoted, the school district is not required to provide the student additional opportunities to perform satisfactorily on the STAAR test.

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 questions, please contact Dixie Johnson.

Sincerely,

Dixie Johnson
Director of Special Education
Swisher Briscoe SSA
Happy ISD, Kress ISD, Silverton ISD, and Tulia ISD