

## **Important message following the Texas Commissioner of Education's announcement regarding Fifth and Eighth Grade STAAR retesting and the Student Success Initiative (SSI)**

Dear Parents,

You are receiving this letter in order to inform you of Fort Bend ISD's response to a recent news development involving students in fifth and eighth grades who did not meet passing standards for their state-mandated STAAR Reading and/or STAAR Math assessments.

On June 10, 2016, Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath informed school districts and the media that there would not be a third opportunity in June for fifth- and eighth-graders, who previously did not meet passing standards on their STAAR assessments, to retake the STAAR Reading and STAAR Math tests. He also said that school districts are not required to provide accelerated instruction (known as the Student Success Initiative, SSI) for these students. This decision was based on complications and issues that surfaced when the state transitioned to a new company for management of its STAAR assessments.

Students who did not meet passing standards on these STAAR assessments may advance to the sixth and ninth grades, if they met all other district criteria for grade level promotion.

While our District appreciates the Commissioner's responsiveness to the challenges that have arisen with the state's newly-contracted company responsible for STAAR testing, FBISD is committed to preparing its students to be successful learners beyond the expectations of the state's mandated assessments. If students did not meet the passing standards for the fifth- or eighth-grade STAAR assessments twice during the school year, they are in need of academic support to prepare them to be successful at the next grade level and subsequently to be successful on the state-mandated assessment next year.

We realize that the state is not requiring our District to provide this service to your child; however, FBISD embraces the belief that the importance of supporting your child's learning extends beyond preparing for a single test. Therefore, FBISD will continue to provide the previously scheduled academic support (Student Success Initiative, SSI) for its fifth- and eighth-grade students who did not meet passing standards for the STAAR Reading and/or Math assessments. This accelerated instruction is an important intervention for our students, and although the state is not requiring the District to provide this cost-free service to your child, we are committed to our students' successful academic growth, and we will continue to support these students who did not meet passing standard on the test with free, academic intervention through our summer school program, beginning this Monday.

All summer school academic programming will continue as previously planned, as it is important that our District continue to support our students in achieving their academic goals for the future. We look forward to serving your child, beginning Monday morning as previously scheduled.

***Note: We are sending this message to inform the parents of all fifth- and eighth-grade students who did not meet passing standards for their state mandated STAAR Reading and/or STAAR Math assessments, as well as those who are also registered to attend the summer school academic programming.***

If you have questions regarding the summer school academic programming, please contact your child's summer school or the summer school principal. Enclosed is the contact information for each location:

<b>Summer School Campus</b>	<b>Summer School Phone Number</b>	<b>Summer School Principal</b>	<b>Summer School Principal's Email</b>
Sugar Land MS	(281) 634-2857	Michael Yelvington	michael.yelvington@fortbendisd.com
Pecan Grove Elem.	(281) 634-2545	Cindy Snyder	cindy.snyder@fortbendisd.com
Lexington Creek Elem.	(281) 634-3431	Stacy Brown	Stacy.brown@fortbendisd.com

Sincerely,

Dr. Phillys Hill  
Chief Academic Officer  
Fort Bend ISD