

2015-2016 STAAR Accountability FAQ

Question:

Will students in grades five and eight need to pass STAAR in Mathematics and Reading to be promoted to the next grade level?

Answer:

No – The Commissioner of Education, Mike Morath, stated that, “As a result of ongoing reporting issues with our testing vendor, we will be removing student consequences attached to STAAR testing for grades five and eight for the remainder of the 2015-16 assessment cycle.”

Question:

Will students who did not meet the passing standard on the fifth- and eighth-grade March and May tests in Mathematics and Reading need to take the STAAR assessment in June?

Answer:

No - The Commissioner of Education, Mike Morath, stated that, “Given that June STAAR test results will not be required to be used for promotion decisions for SSI purposes and are not used for accountability, I am cancelling the June administration of STAAR for grades five and eight. “

Question:

Will summer accelerated instruction (summer school) be available for students who did not meet the passing standard on the March and May grades five and eight STAAR assessment of in Mathematics and Reading be offered?

Answer:

Yes – FBISD will still offer accelerated instruction (summer school) for those students who did not meet the passing standard on the STAAR assessment for grades five and eight Mathematics and Reading assessment. Even though students no longer need to pass the assessment to be promoted to the next grade level, the district strongly encourages students to attend.

Question:

For students who did not meet the passing standard for fifth- and eighth-grade Mathematics and Reading STAAR assessments, what will determine promotion or retention?

Answer:

Local discretion and all relevant and available academic information to make promotion, placement and retention decisions will be utilized for these students, including the recommendation of the teacher and the student’s grade in each subject.

Question:

What if a student who was originally scheduled to attend SSI summer school prefers not to attend after learning that it is no longer required for promotion?

Answer:

- Fort Bend ISD strongly encourages all students who were previously required to attend SSI summer school to continue with the instruction. This instruction is designed to benefit students in their subsequent coursework.
- For students in eighth-grade who did not pass courses and STAAR Mathematics and/or Reading, attendance is still required as a credit recovery option and will be considered in promotion and course placement decisions.
- Students receiving special education services who have documented in their ARDs the decision for the student to attend SSI summer school must attend to meet all ARD requirements.

Question:

Do the changes to SSI have any UIL implications for eighth-grade SSI students?

Answer:

Given that SSI is no longer a factor in grade advancement decisions, local criteria for promotion should be considered by each campus. Students who do not meet local criteria for promotion will either be retained in the current grade level or placed in the next grade level. Students who are placed in ninth-grade will be ineligible to participate in UIL activities.

Question:

Who should parents contact to discuss their child's promotion status?

Answer:

Parents should contact the campus principal.

Question:

Did Fort Bend ISD have any of the issues the Commissioner discussed in his letter with grades five and eight STAAR Mathematics and Reading tests?

Answer:

Fort Bend ISD did not experience system-wide issues with these tests. We believe that all results received are valid and accurate.

Question:

When will STAAR grades three through eight (other than SSI) results arrive in districts?

Answer:

STAAR results originally scheduled by TEA to arrive in districts on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 will now arrive on Tuesday, July 5, 2016.

The Fort Bend ISD Department of Assessment will share the STAAR results by notifying parents the week of July 11.