

**Office of Special Services**

August 30, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The 85<sup>th</sup> 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, 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.

HB 657 states that if a 5<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> 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 us at 806-935-6774

Sincerely,



James Bussard  
Director of Special Education  
Dumas ISD