

## STATE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS



### STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> Grade

Students must pass the TAKS reading and math tests to be promoted to the sixth grade.

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade

Students must pass the TAKS reading and math tests to be promoted to the ninth grade.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Beginning in the 2011–2012 school year, TAKS high school tests will be phased out and replaced by twelve end-of-course assessments. Students who are currently in grade 5 will be required to perform satisfactorily on these end-of-course assessments in order to graduate.

## TAKS Testing at Grade 5

Students have three opportunities to pass the TAKS grade 5 reading test and three opportunities to pass the TAKS grade 5 mathematics test—two during the spring and one during the summer. The exact test dates are available at [www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/calendar](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/calendar).



If you have any questions about the state requirements for grade advancement, contact your school's principal or go to TEA's website at [www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/SSI](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/SSI).

For information about ordering additional copies of this brochure, call 800-252-9186.



Texas Education Agency  
Student Assessment Division

# Prepare for Success

A PARENT GUIDE TO THE

## *Student Success Initiative*

AT GRADE 5



# 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 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) grade 5 reading and mathematics tests to be promoted to sixth grade. Additionally, students are required to pass the TAKS grade 8 reading and mathematics tests to be promoted to ninth grade.

In addition to the SSI grade advancement requirements, state law also mandates that, beginning in the 2011–2012 school year, high school students will be required to perform satisfactorily on twelve end-of-course assessments in English, mathematics, social studies, and science, along with meeting all their course requirements, to receive a diploma from a Texas public high school.

## What Happens at Grade 5?

Fifth grade students have three opportunities to pass the TAKS grade 5 reading test and three opportunities to pass the TAKS grade 5 mathematics test. 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 TAKS test that is required for promotion.

If a student has not passed after the second testing opportunity, a grade placement committee (GPC), which consists of the principal, teacher, and parent or guardian, is formed. The GPC will create an instructional plan based on the individual needs of the student.

## Parents' Role in the Process

A student who is unsuccessful on the reading and/or mathematics test after the third testing opportunity will be retained automatically. However, the student's parents may appeal the decision to have their child repeat the fifth 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 sixth grade, but only if everyone on the committee agrees that the student is likely to succeed in the sixth 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.

NOTE: For information about how the Student Success Initiative applies to students receiving special education services, check with the special education contact on your campus.

## PARENT TIPS

### *to Prepare for Success*

#### General

- Early in the school year, review your child's fourth grade progress and test results with the fifth grade teacher to determine if extra help is needed in reading or math.
- Reinforce what your child is learning in school by asking questions about classroom and homework assignments.
- Attend the school's Open House and parent-teacher conferences. Ask about activities you can do at home to improve your child's skills.
- Keep in contact with your child's teacher throughout the year. If your child seems to be struggling, ask the teacher about tutoring programs or other forms of available assistance.

#### Reading

- Read and discuss a variety of materials with your child. Help your child understand the meanings of new words. Ask who, what, where, when, and why questions to help your child understand the main idea, purpose, and meaning of what is read.
- Work with the teacher and school librarian to identify appropriate reading materials that will interest your child.
- Help your child make connections between personal experience and the events and characters in a story. Ask if a story is similar to other stories and why.

#### Math

- Encourage your child to talk about the steps used when solving a math problem.
- Play math games with your child by asking questions that combine addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to encourage thinking about how numbers work together to form new numbers.
- Ask questions about what is represented in the tables and graphs found in different sections of magazines and newspapers, such as the weather page.
- Find ways to incorporate math skills into everyday situations like shopping, counting money, adding and comparing prices on a menu, measuring ingredients for cooking, doing home repairs, and estimating time and distance when traveling.