

Student Assessment

Parent Notification of Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI)

For Parents of Griffin Middle School 2006-2007 Seventh Grade Students:

This is to inform you of the grade advancement requirements of the Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI), which was passed by the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that every student makes the academic progress necessary to show a sufficient understanding of the knowledge and skills taught and tested at each grade level.

The SSI requires that, beginning in 2007-2008, Grade 8 students must meet the passing standard on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) in reading and mathematics before they can be promoted to Grade 9. Thus, this requirement will apply to your child next year. These grade advancement requirements have applied to the TAKS reading test at Grade 3 since 2003 and to the TAKS reading and mathematics tests at Grade 5 since 2005.

Please note that these testing requirements are part of an overall system of support for student academic achievement. This system includes

- evaluation of student needs at grades that precede SSI grades and academic support for students who need additional instruction;
- ongoing evaluation of student progress during the school year for SSI grades (currently Grades 3 and 5) with assistance provided to all students with identified academic weaknesses;
- three testing opportunities;
- additional instruction after each test administration for students who do not meet the passing standard on a subject-area test;
- a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal, teacher, and parent or guardian, which meets when a student has not met the passing standard after two testing opportunities and decides the most effective way to support the child's academic success; and
- an instructional plan for every student who has not met the passing standard after three opportunities, regardless of whether the student is retained or, upon parent appeal, is promoted by the grade placement committee.