

Parent Notification of Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI)
State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)
Mabank Junior High

Date: **September 9, 2019**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter 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 states that grade 8 students must meet the passing criteria according to both state and local requirements. The **state law** requires that passing standards on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests in reading and math before they can be promoted to the next grade level. **Local laws** that are set forth by Mabank ISD require grade 8 standards to meet the approaches performance level on all four state mandated tests which also include the Science STAAR and History STAAR along with final grade averages that must be at or above passing for the school year before being promoted to grade 9.

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 with assistance provided to all students with identified academic weaknesses;
- three opportunities to pass the state assessments (reading and math ONLY);
- 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, that meets when a student has not met the passing standard after two testing opportunities and that decides the most effective way to support the child's academic success; and
- an instructional plan for the next school year 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.

The SSI recognizes and supports the important role parents play in the education of their children. Your child's teacher and administrators depend upon and look forward to working with you to help your child succeed. To provide you with additional information about the SSI promotion requirements, I have enclosed a brochure titled *Prepare for Success*. This brochure includes an explanation of the state law, suggestions for how families can help, and available resources for further information.

Sincerely,

Barbie Conrad
Principal
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