

**Parent Notification of Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI)
State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)**

Joaquin Jr. High School

Date: September 13, 2018

Dear Parents of **8th grade students**:

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 requires that grade 5 and grade 8 students meet the passing standards on STAAR tests in mathematics and reading before they can be promoted to the next grade.

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;
- 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(s) and I 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, an informational meeting for parents has been scheduled for September 24, 2018, at 6:00 pm in the Joaquin High School Auditorium. Our school counselor, Cassie Porter, will be there to discuss Graduation Requirements and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

***Terri Gray, Principal
Joaquin Jr. High & High School***