

SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
We are dedicated to providing
every student a quality education in a
safe environment.

Parent Notification of Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI)

October 9, 2002

Dear Parents

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 support every student's academic achievement of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) on grade level or above by Grade 3 and throughout their schooling.

Beginning this school year, the SSI requires that Grade 3 students must pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) in reading before they can be promoted to Grade 4. These grade advancement requirements will also apply to the reading and mathematics tests in Grade 5, beginning in the 2004-2005 school year, and in Grade 8, beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. Please note that these testing requirements are part of an overall system of support for student academic achievement. This system includes:

- diagnostic assessment of student needs at preceding grades and corresponding early intervention activities that address those needs;
- continuous and ongoing evaluation and necessary interventions during the school year;
- three testing opportunities;
- accelerated instruction in the subject area failed after each test administration;
- a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal, teacher, and parent, which decides on an individual student basis the most effective way to support a student's academic achievement on grade level; and
- accelerated education plans for every student who does not pass the required grade advancement assessments after three opportunities, whether he/she is retained or promoted by his/her grade placement committee.

Most of all, the SSI recognizes and supports the important role parents play in the education of their children. Your child's teacher and I depend upon and look forward to working with you to help your child succeed. In order to help communicate these promotion requirements, I have enclosed the SSI parent information brochure. This brochure includes the explanation of the changes made to state law, frequently asked questions, suggestions on how families can help, and available resources for further information. I strongly encourage you to discuss this matter with your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

SBISD
Principal