

**Forney Independent School District
600 S. Bois d' Arc
Forney, Texas 75126
972-564-4055**

**NOTIFICATION OF ARD COMMITTEE OPTIONS
RELATED TO GRADE PROMOTION
HB 657
2017-2018**

The 85th Texas Legislature passed legislation (House Bill 657) which pertains to students who receive special education services under Texas Education Code, Chapter 29, subchapter A.

All students in grades 5 and 8 (including those who receive special education services) are subject to grade-advancement requirements and participation in an accelerated instruction program. However, HB 657 requires that the student's Admission, Review, Dismissal (ARD) committee to meet and make decisions regarding both grade placement and participation in an accelerated instruction program if the student does not perform satisfactorily on the first administration of the STAAR reading and/or math assessment.

In this meeting, the ARD committee shall determine:

1. The manner in which the student will participate in an accelerated instruction program;
and
2. Whether the student will be promoted or retained.

The ARD committee may promote the student to the next grade level if the committee determines that the student has made sufficient progress in the measurable annual goals contained in the student's individualized education program. If the student is promoted under this option, the school district is not required to provide additional opportunities for the student to take and meet expectations on the assessment instrument(s).

This notification is applicable only to students eligible for special education services who are enrolled in 5th or 8th grades.

Additional information can be found in the Student Success Initiative (SSI) Manual, which can be accessed online at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ssi/>.

If you have additional questions, please contact your child's campus diagnostician, campus speech therapist, Jill Huber, Coordinator for Special Education, or Stephanie Leach, Coordinator for Special Populations.