



Chapa Middle School

3311 Dacy Lane, Kyle, Texas 78640

Phone: (512) 268-8500 Fax: (512) 295-7824

Lisa Islas, Principal

Parent Notification of Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI)

Dear Parents of Chapa Middle School 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, beginning in 2007–2008, Grade 8 students must meet the passing standard on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests in reading and mathematics before they can be promoted to Grade 9. Thus, this requirement will apply to your child next school 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, 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 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.

Chapa Middle School is taking steps to ensure your child's success. If your child failed either Reading or Math TAKS, they will be losing an elective and will be taking an extra class to help them with the subject they failed. If your child failed both portions of TAKS, they will be expected to stay for after school tutorials as well. If your child is in danger of failing next year, we will be recommending them to stay for after school tutorials. We want to make sure your child is successful on their TAKS test and will be monitoring them throughout the year to ensure their success. We will be providing opportunities for them to get more support and appreciate your help in making sure they attend school every day as well as after school tutorials.

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. I strongly encourage you to discuss this matter with your child's teacher. I would also be glad to meet with you about the SSI, if you like. Please contact the school at **512-268-8500** to make an appointment.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Islas
Principal
Chapa Middle School
