



8/22/17

Dear Parent:

Recent legislation, House Bill 657, communicates changes to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) process regarding state assessments and we are required to notify you of this change by September 1, 2017.

HB 657 is particularly applicable to students in Grades 5 and 8 as those are the levels in which the Student Success Initiative (SSI) regulations apply. These are the only grades in which a state assessment is given multiple times.

For a student who participates in the Montgomery ISD special education program and who does not perform satisfactorily on the state assessment instrument, the student's ARD Committee must meet before the student is administered the assessment for the second time. The 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

At this meeting, the ARD committee may promote the student to the next grade level if the committee concludes that the student has made sufficient progress in his/her IEP goals. A school district that promotes a student under this rule is not required to provide an additional opportunity for the student to perform satisfactorily on the assessment instrument.

For further information on the assessment requirements and ARD committee responsibilities, please feel free to contact your school's diagnostician. As always, we look forward to a productive and positive school year. Thank you for being a partner with us in providing the best possible educational experience for your child!

Regards,

Kim Howze and Carolyn Fiaschetti
Executive Directors of Special Education
Montgomery ISD