June 13, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

District officials received the following communication from the Texas Education Agency Friday evening.

June 10, 2016

To the Administrator Addressed:

SUBJECT: Significant Changes to June STAAR Testing for Grades 5 and 8, Student Success Initiative (SSI) Requirements and Confidential Student Reporting Timelines

As a result of ongoing reporting issues with our testing vendor, we will be removing student consequences attached to STAAR testing for grades 5 and 8 for the remainder of the 2015-16 assessment cycle. We are also modifying the requirements for SSI and the reporting requirements for Confidential Student Reports (CSR).

The decisions outlined in this communication are based on TEA’s commitment to our districts and students, and with the priority of ensuring that those affected are not penalized due to our ongoing vendor reporting issues.

Cancellation of June STAAR Testing for Grades 5 and 8
Given that June STAAR test results will not be required to be used for promotion decisions for SSI purposes and are not used for accountability, I am cancelling the June administration of STAAR for grades 5 and 8.

Students in grades 5 and 8 who did not perform satisfactorily on the March 2016 or May 2016 STAAR mathematics and/or reading tests will not be retested in June. We encourage districts to use local discretion to determine on an individual basis whether accelerated instruction should be offered in the applicable subject area for students who did not pass the mathematics and/or reading assessments in March and/or May. For the 2015–2016 school year, districts are not required to convene grade placement committees based solely on grade 5 and 8 STAAR results. Instead, you should use local discretion and all relevant and available academic information to make promotion/retention decisions for these students as you see fit, such as the recommendation of the teacher and the student’s grade in each subject.

What does this mean for 5th and 8th grade HEB ISD students attending summer school at this time?

- In order to provide needed accelerated instruction to be prepared for success in 2016-2017, HEB ISD will continue to provide summer school for our students.
- The following summer school dates will be honored as originally communicated with families:
  - Math students will continue through Tuesday, June 21st
  - Reading students will continue through Wednesday, June 22nd
- Summer School transportation will continue.
- Breakfast and lunch will continue to be served.
- There will be no STAAR test at the end of summer school.
- Promotion/retention decisions will be based on final grades, attendance, and successful participation in accelerated instruction.
- Parents will receive notification regarding promotion/retention by Monday, July 25th.

Sincerely,

Lydia Martin
Deputy Superintendent – Educational Operations