

SAMPLE RESOLUTION—EIE(LOCAL)

Another policy affected by the STAAR program is EIE(LOCAL), addressing retention and promotion. In addition to articulating district standards for mastery and promotion, most districts' EIE(LOCAL) policies restate the grade advancement testing provisions requiring students in grades 5 and 8 to meet the passing standard on applicable state-mandated assessment instruments to be promoted to the next grade.

TEA's Transition Plan and the STAAR Questions and Answers document (August 26, 2011, version) explain that performance standards for grades 3 through 8 will not be established until fall 2012, which is several months after students have taken the first round of assessments in spring 2012. Because of this timeline, the Student Success Initiative (SSI) promotion requirements will not include use of the STAAR results in the 2011–12 school year only. The law continues to require the use of other academic information in promotion decisions, such as teacher recommendations and student grades.

To suspend the local policy provision requiring students to pass the grade 5 and 8 assessments, Policy Service suggests that the board consider adopting a resolution to this effect for the 2011–12 school year. Otherwise, a district would need to revise board policy twice—once to remove the provision and a second time to add back the requirement before the 2012–13 school year. A sample resolution has been included with this worksheet for your consideration.

Since districts should provide appropriate notice of all promotion standards to parents and students, the district should be sure to publish any changes to its 2011–12 grade advancement standards in a readily accessible location, such as the district's Web site and the student handbook. Districts should also make information available to students and parents explaining the factors that will trigger formation of a grade placement committee for a student. The TEA Transition Plan explains that more information about SSI procedures in the absence of passing standards will be included in the 2011–12 Grade Placement Committee Manual.

HB 2135 from the 82nd Legislative Session clarifies that an 8th grade student who takes a high school course with an EOC assessment is not required to also take the grade 8 STAAR examination. If a district requires these students to take both assessments, the district should include this choice in its grading guidelines and will need to communicate this information to students and parents. TEA's STAAR Questions and Answers document (August 26, 2011, version) indicates that TEA is still making decisions about how test scores for these students will be used for accountability. Districts may want to wait for TEA guidance before making decisions on this issue.

If the district requires satisfactory performance on a state-mandated assessment for non-SSI grades and/or subjects as a local promotion standard, be sure to adjust the resolution text to identify those grades and subjects for which the state-mandated assessment is considered and also suspend the requirement for those grades and subjects for the 2011–12 school year.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD TO SUSPEND PORTIONS OF EIE(LOCAL)
FOR THE 2011–12 SCHOOL YEAR ONLY

WHEREAS, Title 19, Chapter 101 of the Texas Administrative Code and section 28.0211(a) of the Texas Education Code require students in grades 5 and 8 to meet the passing standards on the applicable state-mandated assessment instruments for those grade levels to be promoted to the next grade.

WHEREAS, the BRACKETT ISD EIE(LOCAL) policy requires students in grades 5 and 8 to satisfy the above stated promotion standards in addition to local standards of promotion to be promoted to the next grade.

WHEREAS, state passing standards for the STAAR grade 5 and 8 examinations will not be established for the 2011–12 school year but only raw score data will be available.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of BRACKETT ISD shall suspend for the 2011–12 school year only the portions of EIE(LOCAL) that require students in grades 5 and 8 to meet the passing standards on the applicable state-mandated assessment instruments for those grade levels to be promoted to the next grade.

Adopted this 13th day of February, 2012, by the Board of Trustees.

President

Secretary