



August 30, 2017

Parents:

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, HB 657 was signed into law regarding STAAR testing for grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> special education students. This law will allow the ARD Committee to make decisions on STAAR testing after the first administration.

The four important changes in the law are as follows:

1. It sets the timing of the ARD Committee meeting. It must take place prior to a second administration of the STAAR test.
2. It gives the ARD Committee the standard it should apply in determining whether or not the student should be promoted. The student can be promoted “if the committee concludes that the student has made sufficient progress in the measurable academic goals” in the IEP.
3. It makes it clear that if the ARD Committee decides to promote the student, the student does not have to take the STAAR test again.
4. The school must give notice to each parent of the ARD Committee’s options when a student fails a STAAR test. This must be given by September 1 of each year.

The link to HB 657 will be posted to the Boys Ranch ISD website for further information about this law.

Link to text of HB

657: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/85R/billtext/pdf/HB00657F.pdf#navpanes=0>

If you have any questions, please call the special education office at 806.533.1419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Hartsell".

Amy Hartsell  
Educational Diagnostician  
Boys Ranch ISD