Accelerated Program of Instruction

TEC §28.0211. SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE ON ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS REQUIRED; ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (e), a student may not be promoted to:

(1) the sixth grade program to which the student would otherwise be assigned if the student does not perform satisfactorily on the fifth grade mathematics and reading assessment instruments under Section 39.023; or

(2) the ninth grade program to which the student would otherwise be assigned if the student does not perform satisfactorily on the eighth grade mathematics and reading assessment instruments under Section 39.023.

(a-1) Each time a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a) in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, the school district in which the student attends school shall provide to the student accelerated instruction in the applicable subject area. Accelerated instruction may require participation of the student before or after normal school hours and may include participation at times of the year outside normal school operations.

(a-2) A student who fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a) and who is promoted to the next grade level must complete accelerated instruction required under Subsection (a-1) before placement in the next grade level. A student who fails to complete required accelerated instruction may not be promoted.

(a-3) The commissioner shall provide guidelines to districts on research-based best practices and effective strategies that a district may use in developing an accelerated instruction program.

(b) A school district shall provide to a student who initially fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a) at least two
additional opportunities to take the assessment instrument. A school district may administer an alternate assessment instrument to a student who has failed an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a) on the previous two opportunities. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a student may be promoted if the student performs at grade level on an alternate assessment instrument under this subsection that is appropriate for the student's grade level and approved by the commissioner.

(c) Each time a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a), the school district in which the student attends school shall provide to the student accelerated instruction in the applicable subject area, including reading instruction for a student who fails to perform satisfactorily on a reading assessment instrument. After a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument a second time, a grade placement committee shall be established to prescribe the accelerated instruction the district shall provide to the student before the student is administered the assessment instrument the third time. The grade placement committee shall be composed of the principal or the principal's designee, the student's parent or guardian, and the teacher of the subject of an assessment instrument on which the student failed to perform satisfactorily. The district shall notify the parent or guardian of the time and place for convening the grade placement committee and the purpose of the committee. An accelerated instruction group administered by a school district under this section may not have a ratio of more than 10 students for each teacher.

(d) In addition to providing accelerated instruction to a student under Subsection (c), the district shall notify the student's parent or guardian of:

(1) the student's failure to perform satisfactorily on the assessment instrument;
(2) the accelerated instruction program to which the student is assigned; and

(3) the possibility that the student might be retained at the same grade level for the next school year.

(e) A student who, after at least three attempts, fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a) shall be retained at the same grade level for the next school year in accordance with Subsection (a). The student's parent or guardian may appeal the student's retention by submitting a request to the grade placement committee established under Subsection (c). The school district shall give the parent or guardian written notice of the opportunity to appeal. The grade placement committee may decide in favor of a student's promotion only if the committee concludes, using standards adopted by the board of trustees, that if promoted and given accelerated instruction, the student is likely to perform at grade level. A student may not be promoted on the basis of the grade placement committee's decision unless that decision is unanimous. The commissioner by rule shall establish a time line for making the placement determination. This subsection does not create a property interest in promotion. The decision of the grade placement committee is final and may not be appealed.

(f) A school district shall provide to a student who, after three attempts, has failed to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a) accelerated instruction during the next school year as prescribed by an educational plan developed for the student by the student's grade placement committee established under Subsection (c). The district shall provide that accelerated instruction regardless of whether the student has been promoted or retained. The educational plan must be designed to enable the student to perform at the appropriate grade level by the conclusion of the school year. During the school year, the student shall be monitored to ensure that the student is progressing in accordance with the plan. The district shall administer to the student the assessment instrument for the grade level in which
the student is placed at the time the district regularly administers the assessment instruments for that school year.

(g) This section does not preclude the retention at a grade level, in accordance with state law or school district policy, of a student who performs satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a).

(h) In each instance under this section in which a school district is specifically required to provide notice to a parent or guardian of a student, the district shall make a good faith effort to ensure that such notice is provided either in person or by regular mail and that the notice is clear and easy to understand and is written in English or the parent or guardian's native language.

(i) The admission, review, and dismissal committee of a student who participates in a district's special education program under Subchapter B, Chapter 29, and who does not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a) and administered under Section 39.023(a) or (b) shall determine:

1. the manner in which the student will participate in an accelerated instruction program under this section; and
2. whether the student will be promoted or retained under this section.

(j) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall provide students required to attend accelerated programs under this section with transportation to those programs if the programs occur outside of regular school hours.

(k) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section, including rules concerning when school districts shall administer assessment instruments required under this section and which administration of the assessment instruments will be used for purposes of Section 39.051.


(l-1) The commissioner may adopt rules requiring a school district that receives federal funding under Title I of the
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.) to use that funding to provide supplemental educational services under 20 U.S.C. Section 6316 in conjunction with the accelerated instruction provided under this section, provided that the rules may not conflict with federal law governing the use of that funding.

(m) The commissioner shall certify, not later than July 1 of each school year or as soon as practicable thereafter, whether sufficient funds have been appropriated statewide for the purposes of this section. A determination by the commissioner is final and may not be appealed. For purposes of certification, the commissioner may not consider Foundation School Program funds. This section may be implemented only if the commissioner certifies that sufficient funds have been appropriated during a school year for administering the accelerated instruction programs specified under this section, including teacher training for that purpose.

(n) A student who is promoted by a grade placement committee under this section must be assigned in each subject in which the student failed to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified under Subsection (a) to a teacher who meets all state and federal qualifications to teach that subject and grade.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 396, Sec. 2.12, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.
Amended by:
Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1058, Sec. 9, eff. June 15, 2007.
Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1058, Sec. 17, eff. June 15, 2007.
Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 895, Sec. 29, eff. June 19, 2009.

(a) Each school district and charter school shall test eligible students in accordance with the grade advancement requirements for the grades and subjects specified in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0211(a). These requirements apply to the following assessment instruments under the TEC, §39.023(a), (b), and (l):

1. the reading and mathematics assessments at Grade 5; and
2. the reading and mathematics assessments at Grade 8.

(b) An eligible student is subject to all of the grade advancement requirements under the TEC, §28.0211, including automatic retention, if the student is enrolled in a local school district or charter school on any day between January 1 and the date of the first administration of the grade advancement assessments.

(c) An eligible student who does not meet the criteria specified in subsection (b) of this section but enrolls in a local school district or charter school at any time after the date of the first administration of the grade advancement assessments is not subject to the grade advancement requirements. In accordance with §101.2001(b) of this title (relating to Policy), a school district or charter school must provide this student with the opportunity to test and access to required accelerated instruction.

(d) A student receiving special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, enrolled in Grade 5 or Grade 8 who is receiving instruction in the essential knowledge and skills in a subject specified under subsection (a) of this section is eligible under this section as outlined in the official Grade Placement Committee (GPC) manual published annually by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). In accordance with §101.5(b) of this title (relating to Student Testing Requirements) and the TEC, §28.0211(i), the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee shall determine appropriate assessment and accelerated instruction for each eligible student. Assessment decisions must be made on an individual basis and in accordance with procedures established by the TEA. These decisions shall be documented in the student's individualized education program.

(e) A limited English proficient (LEP) student, as defined by the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter B, who is administered an assessment in English or Spanish for a grade and subject specified in subsection (a) of this section, except as provided by §101.1011 of this title (relating to Student Success Initiative Grade Advancement Requirements), is eligible under this section. In accordance with §101.1003 of this title (relating to Role of the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee), the student's language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC) shall determine the appropriate assessment and accelerated instruction for each eligible student. The GPC, as specified in §101.2007 of this title (relating to Role of Grade Placement Committee), shall make its decisions in consultation with a member of the student's LPAC. Assessment decisions must be made on an individual basis and in accordance with procedures established by the TEA.
(f) As specified in §101.1009 of this title (relating to Limited English Proficient Students Who Receive Special Education Services), decisions regarding assessments for LEP students who receive special education services shall be made by the ARD committee in conjunction with the LPAC.

(g) In accordance with the TEC, §28.021(b), decisions regarding a student who is dyslexic and eligible under this section shall consider the student's potential for achievement or proficiency in the assessed subject.

Source: The provisions of this §101.2003 adopted to be effective May 26, 2002, 27 TexReg 4337; amended to be effective February 24, 2005, 30 TexReg 842; amended to be effective April 19, 2010, 35 TexReg 3030.