



Frisco Independent School District

February 26, 2015

Dear Hunt Families,

You may be aware that there have been recent changes regarding both state and federal accountability. Current federal accountability requirements specify that students must have a standardized mathematics testing score every year in grades 3-8 as well as a standardized mathematics testing score for high school. State HB5 eliminated high school assessments in geometry and Algebra II, thereby permitting middle school students taking a mathematics course for high school credit to complete their mathematics testing requirements for high school graduation while still in middle school. Consequently, in order to be in compliance with the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measure, middle school students who are taking Algebra I are also required to take their grade level's STAAR math exam. Last year, TEA Commissioner Williams requested a waiver from the federal government in order to eliminate the unnecessary double testing of these students. The state waiver was denied by the United States Department of Education, but Commissioner Williams also believes, as we do, that double testing middle school students is instructionally not appropriate.

Understanding that it may result in campuses and/or districts not meeting federal AYP, Commissioner Williams is strongly discouraging local school districts from double-testing middle school students enrolled in Algebra I and has informed districts that only Algebra I EOC scores (not STAAR math grade level assessment scores) will be used for state accountability purposes for those middle school students enrolled in Algebra I.

Based on this information, and after consulting with middle school principals, central office staff, and surrounding school districts, Frisco ISD middle school students who are enrolled in Algebra I will only take the STAAR Algebra I EOC assessment and not the STAAR grade level test for math.

To view the Commissioner's letter sent to school districts regarding middle school students taking Algebra I, visit [http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/News_and_Multimedia/Correspondence/TAA_Letters/Middle_School_Students_Taking_Algebra_I\(1\)/](http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/News_and_Multimedia/Correspondence/TAA_Letters/Middle_School_Students_Taking_Algebra_I(1)/). Parents should contact their student's counselor if they would like more information about STAAR and STAAR EOC assessments. More information can also be found on the Texas Education Agency web-site at: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>.

Sincerely,

Chantelle W. Elliott
Middle School Math Coordinator

Danny Barrentine
Principal, Hunt Middle School