



February 28, 2014

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you of a change in assessment requirements for students taking Algebra I in middle school. A major piece of current federal accountability, better known as No Child Left Behind, specifies that a mathematics test be administered in grades 3-8 (STAAR) as well as a mathematics test in high school. Recently passed by the Texas Legislature, House Bill 5 established Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) as the only mathematics assessment that can be applied as part of the high school requirement. As a result, your student will be tested on both their enrolled grade level STAAR math and the Algebra I EOC in the spring of 2014.

Algebra I teachers are aware of the requirement for double testing and have been working to ensure that your student has the content and skills needed for success on both the grade-level STAAR math and the Algebra I EOC assessments. In addition to the support provided by the math teacher, all NISD students who are taking Algebra I in middle school also have access to the free online program, Think Through Math (www.thinkthroughmath.com). This is an adaptive web-based program that can help strengthen your child's understanding of critical math concepts and problem-solving skills. Customized pathways have been created within this online resource to review and reinforce grade-level concepts. The username and password to gain access to the site has been provided to your son/daughter through their Algebra I teacher.

If you have any questions, please contact Deonna Dean, Director of Middle School Instruction, at 210-397-8637.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. T. Woods', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Brian T. Woods, Ed.D.
Superintendent