

Chapter 11—Local Accountability Systems

Overview

House Bill 22 (85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017) established Local Accountability Systems (LAS), which allow districts and open-enrollment charter schools to develop plans to locally evaluate their campuses. Once a LAS plan receives approval from the agency, districts and open-enrollment charter schools may use locally developed domains and indicators with the three state-mandated domains to assign ratings for campuses that meet certain criteria.

LAS Implementation

The implementation of LAS is optional. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools that choose to participate must follow the procedures for implementation as are adopted in the *2019 Local Accountability System Manual*.

The LAS process includes a planning and implementation year during which districts and open-enrollment charter schools may work with TEA LAS staff to design and refine a LAS plan. LAS domains, components, scaling methodologies, and metrics are established during the implementation year. Once the LAS plan is final, it is reviewed and approved or denied by TEA staff and an independent review panel consisting of representatives from current LAS districts.

Ratings Under LAS

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools produce campus ratings for each LAS domain and for LAS overall. These ratings consist of a scaled score and a corresponding letter grade. Upon completion of the planning year, participating districts submit LAS data to the agency, and TEA releases “what if” ratings for LAS campuses. The “what if” ratings are generated based on LAS data and state accountability data and provide districts and open-enrollment charter schools a preview of outcomes when LAS overall ratings are applied to state overall ratings for an overall campus rating.

At the end of the second year of LAS implementation, districts and open-enrollment charter schools submit actual LAS scaled scores and corresponding letter grades for the agency to apply to the state overall campus ratings. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools must submit scaled scores and letter grades assigned for each domain and overall for each LAS campus as approved in the LAS plan. LAS campuses that receive a *C* or higher state overall rating have their LAS overall scaled score applied to their state overall scaled score. The LAS plan specifies the proportion the LAS rating contributes to the overall campus rating, which may be up to 50 percent.

TEA calculates overall ratings for LAS campuses by applying the LAS overall scaled score at the proportion determined by the district to the state accountability overall scaled score. The overall scaled score and rating produced is then displayed on the txschools.gov and TEA websites along with the overall and domain scaled scores and ratings for both LAS and state accountability.

2019 LAS Ratings

For 2019, campuses that participated in the 2017–18 LAS pilot and received “what if” scaled scores must submit year two LAS data by July 1, 2019, in order to have LAS outcomes applied to 2019 state campus ratings. If these campuses receive a *C* or higher state overall rating, overall scaled scores and ratings are published in TEAL Accountability and on the public websites on August 15, 2019, reflecting the application of LAS ratings to state ratings. For additional information on LAS submission requirements, please see Chapter 2 of the *2019 Local Accountability System Manual*.

LAS Appeals

LAS districts and open-enrollment charter schools that wish to appeal LAS campus ratings must follow the LAS appeals process, as adopted in the *2019 Local Accountability System Manual*. The LAS appeal response letter from the commissioner serves as notification of the final campus rating. The commissioner's decisions are final and not subject to further appeal or negotiation.

LAS campuses that receive a *D* or *F* state overall accountability rating may not apply LAS ratings. A district may choose to appeal the state overall accountability rating. If the appeal is granted, and the campus receives a final state overall rating of *C* or higher, the LAS overall rating will be applied to the state overall rating upon the resolution of the state appeal. The final campus overall rating will be updated at this time.

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools that wish to appeal both LAS and state accountability ratings for campuses must submit two appeals: a LAS appeal with supporting data and a state accountability appeal with supporting data. Chapter 3 of the *2019 Local Accountability System Manual* provides instructions for filing a LAS appeal. Please see Chapter 8 of this manual for filing instructions for a state accountability appeal.