Chapter 1—Local Accountability System Overview

About this Manual

The 2019 Local Accountability System Manual is a guide to explain the requirements of creating a local accountability system.

Overview of the 2019 Local Accountability System

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 campuses. LAS provides an opportunity for districts and open-enrollment charter schools to voluntarily submit local campus data which is combined with state accountability outcomes to determine the overall campus rating. This process is designed to encourage schools to focus on student outcome-based components shaped around local long-term goals identified by community and stakeholder feedback. This may provide a broader view of district or open-enrollment charter school performance and impact. Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.0544 requires that LAS plans be valid and reliable. LAS plans must also allow for differentiation and must be auditable.

Who is Rated?

All campuses with an overall state accountability rating of C or higher are eligible to combine an overall LAS rating with the overall state accountability rating to determine the summative rating. The LAS rating may contribute up to 50 percent of the combined overall rating for the campus.

School Types

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools decide which school types (elementary school, middle school, high school, or K–12) participate in the LAS process and must include all campuses in the district that have common data components. The district or open-enrollment charter school may also request to identify an additional school group within a school type for which to customize the LAS plan.

For example, a district may request to identify a school group consisting of elementary-level magnet schools and design a LAS plan with components unique to that group. Otherwise, all campuses within a school type must be evaluated on a common set of district-determined components. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools submit LAS ratings for all campuses within the school types identified in the approved LAS plan. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools may also request to identify schools rated under alternative education accountability (AEA) provisions as a unique school type.
Phases of the LAS Process

1. Plan Development
   - Districts and open-enrollment charter schools invite community stakeholders to identify community values and desired student outcomes.
   - District and stakeholder groups evaluate data and local initiatives to set goals which impact student success and growth.

2. Plan Submission and Approval
   - Districts and open-enrollment charter schools submit a LAS plan for technical review by agency staff. TEA LAS staff and district staff work collaboratively to refine plans in preparation for approval. Although collaboration with the agency is not required to develop a LAS plan, it is highly recommended to avoid approval-related issues at the time of plan submission.
   - A third-party panel reviews and approves or denies the final LAS plan.

3. Plan Implementation
   - Districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and campuses implement plans with fidelity.
   - Districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and campuses collect, calculate, and process data.

4. Ratings Submission and Approval
   - Districts and open-enrollment charter schools submit component, domain, and overall scaled scores and ratings for each LAS campus by the July 1, 2019, submission deadline.
   - TEA verifies overall scaled score calculations using LAS domain outcomes and weights as approved in the final LAS plan. TEA calculates overall ratings for LAS campuses by weighting the overall LAS scaled score at the proportion determined by the district in combination with the state accountability overall scaled score.
   - TEA releases the combined overall scaled score and rating for LAS campuses in TEAL on August 14, 2019.
   - TEA posts the combined overall scaled score and rating at https://txschools.gov/ and TEA public websites along with the LAS and state overall and domain scaled scores and ratings on August 15, 2019.
   - Districts and open-enrollment charter schools must post LAS domain and overall ratings, rationales for goals, and methodologies for calculations on the campus website(s).
   - Districts and open-enrollment charter schools must provide TEA with the campus website link for display on https://txschools.gov/ along with LAS outcomes on each campus report card.