

Accountability System Goals and Guiding Principles – 2016 and Beyond

GOALS

Texas will be among the top ten states in postsecondary readiness by 2020 by

- improving student achievement at all levels in the core subjects of the state curriculum*;
- ensuring the progress of all students toward achieving advanced academic performance*;
- closing advanced academic performance level gaps among student groups*; and,
- rewarding excellence based on other indicators in addition to state assessment results.

Texas shall also adopt a set of indicators of the quality of learning and achievement by

- improving student preparedness for success in subsequent grade levels and in entering the workforce, military, or postsecondary education;
- continue closing academic performance level gaps among student groups;
- evaluating districts and campuses based on five domains of indicators of achievement; and
- evaluating the percentage of students who meet the standard for annual improvement on assessments.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Student Performance

- The system is first and foremost designed to improve student performance.
- The system focuses on preparing students for success after high school.

System Safeguards

The system uses safeguards to minimize unintended consequences.

Recognition of Diversity

The system is fair and addresses the diversity of student populations and educational settings.

Public Participation and Accessibility

- The system's development and implementation are informed by advice from Texas educators and the public.
- The system is understandable and provides performance results that are relevant, meaningful, and easily accessible.

Coordination

The system is part of an overall coordinated strategy for state and federal ratings, reporting, monitoring, and interventions.

Statutory Compliance

The system is designed to comply with statutory requirements.

Local Responsibility

- Districts are responsible for submitting accurate data upon which ratings are based.
- The system relies on local school districts to develop and implement local accountability systems that complement the state system.

Distinction Designations

Distinction designations are awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in academic areas in addition to those evaluated under state accountability. Campus distinctions are based on indicators of student performance in comparison to 40 similar campuses.

* These goals are specified in Chapter 39.053(f) of the Texas Education Code.