

Figure: 19 TAC §100.1031(a)



Charter School Performance Framework Manual for Texas Public Charter Schools

Texas Education Agency
Division of Charter School Authorizing
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Acronyms

AEA.....	Alternative Education Accountability
BE/ESL.....	Bilingual Education/English as a Second Language
CSPF.....	Charter School Performance Framework
EB.....	Emerging Bilingual
FIRST.....	Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas
IRS.....	Internal Revenue Service
LEA.....	Local Education Agency
PEIMS.....	Public Education Information Management System
RDA.....	Results Driven Accountability
STAAR.....	State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness
TAC.....	Texas Administrative Code
TAPR.....	Texas Academic Performance Report
TARS.....	Texas Accountability Rating System
TEA.....	Texas Education Agency
TEC.....	Texas Education Code
TXSSC.....	Texas School Safety Center

Overview

The mission of the Texas Education Agency's Authorizing Division is to cultivate innovative, high-quality learning opportunities and to empower the charter community through leadership, guidance, and support. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is committed to expanding the number of high-quality educational options in its charter school portfolio. TEA evaluates all public schools and districts under state accountability requirements. Below you will find information about district and charter school accreditation status, financial accountability, and state accountability ratings and standards.

TEA accredits public schools in Texas at the charter school or district level for grades K-12. The Accreditation Status, Standards, and Sanctions section in Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) states how accreditation statuses are determined and assigned to school districts. Those statuses are defined as Accredited, Accredited- Warned, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited- Revoked. The TAC rules also establish accreditation standards and sanctions, including definitions, purpose, and oversight appointments.

The state's school financial accountability rating system, known as the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST), ensures that all Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve those practices.

In 1993, the Texas Legislature enacted statutes that mandated the creation of the Texas public school accountability system to rate charter schools and districts as well as evaluate campuses. The state accountability webpage has information available about our academic accountability rating system, the Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR), school report cards, and the Texas Consolidated School Rating (TCSR) reports.

The Charter School Performance Framework (CSPF), which is required by Texas Education Code (TEC) §12.1181, is designed to provide parents, the public, charter operators, and the authorizer with information about each charter school's performance. The Charter School Performance Framework reports are available on the TEA Charter Schools website. The CSPF is aligned to academic, financial, operational, and governance standards set forth in the TEC. These standards for charter school performance are clear, rigorous, quantifiable, and provide a comprehensive body of data reflective of the charter school's performance. The CSPF is aligned with the Texas A-F accountability rating system, the Charter FIRST financial accountability rating system, and best practices that have been identified by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. Tier designations, which are described later in this manual, and CSPF performance will be used to inform TEA's authorizing decisions, including assigning appropriate levels of oversight, making decisions related to renewal or non- renewal of charter schools in the discretionary category (as defined by TEC §12.1141(c)) and registered under the agency's alternative education accountability procedures, revoking charters that have failed to meet CSPF standards (as described in TEC §12.115(a)(5)), and determining eligibility for expansion (19 TAC §100.1033).

Data Sources for the CSPF

The Academic Standard utilizes the State Accountability Rating System and other publicly available information from the Texas Accountability Performance Report (TAPR). The Financial Standard pulls information primarily from annual financial reports and the Charter FIRST. The Operational Standard includes self-reported data, third-party monitoring, and authorizer monitoring (e.g., school visits). The Governance Standard includes self-reported data and authorizer monitoring (e.g., annual governance reporting form). The performance frameworks for adult high school diploma and industry certification charter schools draw from the TAPR, the

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).

Using the CSPF

A performance framework is a tool for decision making that outlines expectations for performance and compliance that are enforced through monitoring, evaluation, and intervention.

Charter schools are encouraged to refer to the framework on a continuing basis to self- assess the overall health and viability of their school. The framework will also be used to inform TEA's oversight efforts as well as decisions related to intervention, renewal, or revocation.

The CSPF does not negate any ratings (including, but not limited to, state accountability, Charter FIRST, Accreditation, or Results Driven Accountability (RDA)) that a charter school or charter campus receives, nor does it remove the requirements associated with any sanctions or interventions required as a result of those ratings.

CSPF Report

The CSPF is divided into four guiding areas or standards: Academic, Financial, Operational, and Governance. The purpose of the standards is to determine whether charter schools are academically successful and effective, financially healthy and viable, operationally effective and compliant, and governed effectively. The four standards when used together form the comprehensive Charter School Performance Framework of Texas. Charter schools are rated at the LEA level.

Academic Standard

The Academic Standard evaluates each charter school’s academic performance based on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic readiness (STAAR). This standard answers the evaluative question: Is the academic program a success for all students? Meeting the expectations in this standard is indicative of an effective academic program where student learning—the central purpose of every school—is taking place.

Number	Indicator	Calculation	Description	Data Source	Possible Points
1a	Annual Accountability Rating: overall scale score (LEA level)	Overall Charter School Scale Score	TEA Performance Reporting TEC §12.104	Most Recent Accountability Rating	100
<i>Academic framework calculation = 1a</i>					<i>100</i>

Financial Standard

The Financial Standard is evaluated in the Charter School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (Charter FIRST). As described in 19 TAC §109.1001, the purpose of Charter FIRST is to ensure that charter schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices.

Charter schools that are operated by institutions of higher education receive only Charter Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) ratings of Pass/Fail.

For the purposes of the Charter School Performance Framework, a Pass rating is equal to 100, a Fail rating is equal to 0.

Note: The Financial Standard is not evaluated for charter schools in their first year of operation.

Number	Indicator	Calculation	Description	Data Source	Possible Points
2a	Overall financial performance on Charter FIRST	Charter FIRST Score	Charter FIRST TEC §12.101	Most Recent Charter FIRST Score	100

<i>Financial framework calculation = 2a</i>					<i>100</i>
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Operational Standard

The Operational Standard indicators facilitate evaluation of each charter school's compliance with federal law, state law, state rules or regulations, and/or the charter contract.

The following Operational Standard indicators evaluate each charter school's compliance with educational, operational, safety, and reporting requirements.

Number	Indicator	Calculation	Description	Data Source	Possible Points
3a	Teacher Qualifications	<p>1 – 100% of the charter school's teachers meet qualifications.</p> <p>0 – Less than 100% of the charter school's teachers meet qualifications.</p> <p>NA – Data masked due to small numbers</p>	<p>Charter school teachers must hold a baccalaureate degree.</p> <p>TEC §12.129, 19 TAC §100.1212(b)</p>	Most Recent TAPR District Staff Information, Teachers by Highest Degree Held	1
3b	Child Find Requirements	<p>1 – The charter school received Met State Target determination</p> <p>0 – The charter school did not receive Met State Target determination</p>	<p>Charter schools must meet program requirements for special populations, including, but not limited to, special education.</p> <p>TEC §12.104(b)(2)(F)</p>	Texas Student Data System (TSDS) Child Find (CF) collection	1
3c	Program Requirements: Bilingual Education	<p>1 – The charter school received Meets Requirements determination</p> <p>0 – The charter school received a Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention, or Needs Substantial Intervention determination</p>	<p>Charter schools must meet program requirements for BE/ESL populations.</p> <p>TEC §12.104(b)(2)(G)</p>	Most Recent BE/ESL/EB RDA Designation	1

3d	Criminal Record Employment Requirements	<p>1 - The charter school certified its compliance by submitting the “Criminal History Compliance Certification” for the applicable school year in a timely manner.</p> <p>0 - The charter school failed to certify its compliance because it did not submit the “Criminal History Compliance Certification” for the most recent school year in a timely manner or a finding from a Special Accreditation Investigation has indicated the charter school is not in compliance.</p>	Charter schools must certify compliance with TEC §22.085. TEC §12.120, 12.1059, 22.0832, 22.085, 19 TAC §100.1151	Criminal History Compliance Certification Most Recent School Year	1
3e	Timely Filing of PEIMS Data	<p>1 - The charter school was in compliance with the most recent school year PEIMS data reporting timelines.</p> <p>0 - The charter school was not in compliance with the most recent school year PEIMS data reporting timelines.</p>	Charter schools must comply with PEIMS reporting requirements. TEC §12.104(b)(3)(A)	<p>TEA Student Education Data System/PEIMS Division</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
3f	Certificate of Occupancy Requirements	<p>1 - The charter school is in compliance with certificate of occupancy requirements.</p> <p>0 - The charter school is not in compliance with certificate of occupancy requirements</p> <p>NA - The charter holder is a university that has not provided a certificate of occupancy for the educational use of charter school sites that are on the university campus.</p>	All charter school buildings used for educational purposes must have a valid certificate of occupancy for educating children. 19 TAC §100.1215(b) and 100.1001(3)(E)	<p>TEA Charter Schools Tracking System</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1

3g	Handling of Secure Assessment Materials	<p>1 - The charter school fully complied with state rules concerning delivery, storage, administration, and return of assessment materials for the spring assessment period.</p> <p>0 - The charter school failed to fully comply with state rules concerning delivery, storage, administration, and return of assessment materials for the spring assessment period.</p>	<p>Charter schools must comply with state rules concerning assessment materials. TEC §39.0301-39.0304, 19 TAC §101.3031</p>	<p>TEA Assessment Division</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
3h	Eligibility to Participate in Child Nutrition Program	<p>1 - The charter school complied with child nutrition program requirements.</p> <p>0 - The charter school has not complied with child nutrition program requirements.</p> <p>NA - The charter school has opted out of child nutrition programs and has obtained any waivers required to do so.</p>	<p>Charter schools must comply with child nutrition program requirements. 19 TAC §§100.1022(c)(1)(A)(xi) and 100.1032(2)(N)</p>	<p>Texas Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
3i	Safety Requirements: MEOP	<p>1 – The charter school adopted and implemented a MEOP according to guidelines.</p> <p>0 – The charter school has not adopted and implemented a MEOP according to guidelines.</p>	<p>Charter schools must adopt and implement a multihazard emergency operations plan TEC §37.108</p>	<p>TEA Office of School Safety Data</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1

3j	Safety Requirements: Safety Audit	<p>1 – The charter school’s safety and security audit has been conducted according to guidelines.</p> <p>0 – The charter school’s safety and security audit has not been conducted according to guidelines</p> <p>NA – The charter school is not required to conduct safety and security audit during the applicable school year</p>	<p>Charter schools must conduct a safety and security audit once every three years TEC §37.108</p>	TEA Office of School Safety Data Most Recent School Year	1
3k	Do Not Hire Registry Compliance	<p>1 – The charter school has complied with do not hire registry requirements</p> <p>0 – The charter school has not complied with do not hire registry requirements</p>	<p>Charter schools may not employ a person listed on the registry of persons not eligible for employment in public schools. TEC §22.092</p>	TEA Investigations Division Most Recent School Year	1

Operational framework calculation = $[(\# \text{ of pts. earned})/11]*100$					100
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Governance Standard

The Governance Standard indicators facilitate evaluation of each charter school's compliance state law, state rules or regulations with governance requirements.

Number	Indicator	Calculation	Description	Data Source	Possible Points
4a	Governance Reporting Requirements	1 - The charter school filed applicable year's governance reporting forms in a timely manner. 0 - The charter school did not file applicable year's governance reporting forms in a timely manner.	Charter schools must file Governance Reporting Forms in a timely manner. TEC §12.119(b), 19 TAC §100.1007	TEA Charter Schools Tracking System Most Recent School Year	1
4b	Governing Board Training requirements	1 - All charter board members and school officers appointed or hired prior to deadline established by the commissioner, attested that annually required training was completed or met the criteria for exceptions provided for in the TEA Governance Form. 0 - Some charter board members and/or school officers appointed or hired prior to deadline established by the commissioner failed to attest that annually required training was completed, failed to meet criteria for exceptions provided for in the TEA Governance Form.	Charter board members and school officials must complete the annually required training. TEC §12.123, 19 TAC §§ 100.1102-100.1105	TEA Charter Schools Tracking System Most Recent School Year	1

4c	Governing board member names posted on the homepage of school website	<p>1 - The charter school homepage, as reported in the most recent governance reporting form, contains the names of board members.</p> <p>0 - The charter school homepage, as reported in the most recent governance reporting form, does not contain the names of board members.</p>	<p>Charter schools must post all board members names on its homepage.</p> <p>TEC §12.1211, 19 TAC §100.1007(d)(2)</p>	<p>TEA Charter Schools Tracking System/ Individual</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p> <p>Charter School Websites</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
4d	Superintendent salary posted on school website	<p>1 - The charter school website, as reported in the most recent governance reporting form, contains the salary of the superintendent.</p> <p>0 - The charter school website, as reported in the most recent governance reporting form, does not contain the salary of the superintendent.</p>	<p>Charter schools must post the superintendent's salary on its website.</p> <p>TEC §12.136, 19 TAC §100.1007(d)(2)</p>	<p>TEA Charter Schools Tracking System/ Individual</p> <p>Charter School Websites</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
4e	Board Conflicts of Interest and Nepotism	<p>1 – The charter school has complied with all legal requirements regarding conflicts of interest and nepotism.</p> <p>0 – The charter school has not complied with all legal requirements regarding conflicts of interest and nepotism.</p>	<p>Charter schools must post required conflict of interest disclosures on the school website as required by law (Local Govt. Code 176), charter schools must abstain from discussion, decision, and action and to file affidavit of abstention and include with minutes as required by law (Local Govt. Code 171), charter schools must report to TEA where required by law for nepotism</p> <p>19 TAC §100.1007(a)</p>	<p>TEA Charter Schools Tracking System/ Individual</p> <p>Charter School Websites</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1

4f	Board seat Requirements	<p>1 – The charter school board seats are filled according to charter bylaws.</p> <p>0 – The charter school board seats are not filled according to charter bylaws.</p>	<p>Charter schools are required to submit their bylaws to TEA, and each year charter schools are required to submit the name of the members of their governing body.</p> <p>TEC §12.119</p>	<p>TEA Charter Schools Tracking System</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
4g	501(c)(3) status	<p>1 – The charter school's 501(c)(3) status is maintained.</p> <p>0 – The charter school's 501(c)(3) status is not maintained.</p> <p>NA- For charter schools where a 501(c)(3) is not required.</p>	<p>Subchapter D charter schools must be exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3))</p> <p>TEC §12.101, 19 TAC §100.1217(b)</p>	<p>TEA Charter Schools Tracking System</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
4h	Criminal prosecution of a board member or charter officer resulting in conviction	<p>1 – No board members or officers have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, any office in TEC 37.997(a) or Code of Criminal Procedure Article 62.001(5)</p> <p>0 – At least one board member or officer have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, any office in TEC 37.997(a) or Code of Criminal Procedure Article 62.001(5)</p>	<p>A person is not eligible to serve as member of a charter holder board, charter school board or as an officer or employee of a charter school if they have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude</p> <p>TEC 37.997(a) or Code of Criminal Procedure Article 62.001(5)</p> <p>TEC §12.120, 19 TAC §100.1033(b)(9)(A)(viii)</p>	<p>TEA Investigations Division</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1

4i	Placement of a Conservator or Monitor due to any investigation findings	<p>1 – The charter school did not have a conservator or monitor placed due to an investigation finding</p> <p>0 – The charter school did have a conservator or monitor placed due to an investigation finding</p>	<p>Charter schools are subject to special investigations.</p> <p>TEC §12.104(b)(3)(M)</p>	<p>TEA Governance Division</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
4j	Early Childhood Literacy and Mathematics Plan	<p>1 – The charter board has adopted an early childhood literacy and mathematics plan in accordance with TEC §11.185</p> <p>0 – The charter board has not adopted an early childhood literacy and mathematics plan in accordance with TEC §11.185</p>	<p>Charter school boards must adopt an early childhood literacy and mathematics proficiency plan, including annual goals spanning the next five school years. This plan must be posted to the school's website.</p> <p>TEC §12.104, §11.185, §39.306</p>	<p>TEA Charter Schools Tracking System/ Individual Charter School Websites</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1
4k	College, Career, and Military Readiness Plan	<p>1 – The charter board has adopted a college, career, and military readiness plan in accordance with TEC §11.186</p> <p>0 – The charter board has not adopted a college, career and military readiness plan in accordance with TEC §11.186</p>	<p>Charter school boards must adopt a college, career, and military readiness plan, including annual goals spanning the next five school years. This plan must be posted to the school's website.</p> <p>TEC §12.104, §11.186, §39.306</p>	<p>TEA Charter Schools Tracking System/ Individual Charter School Websites</p> <p>Most Recent School Year</p>	1

<i>Governance framework calculation = [(# of pts. earned)/11]*100</i>	<i>100</i>
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Overall Score and Tier Ratings

Scoring and tiering the TEA charter school portfolio increases transparency, clearly communicates performance ratings, and identifies low-performing schools that should be subject to increased oversight. The CSPF tiers are used to inform TEA's authorizing decisions consistent with Texas Education Code (TEC) §§12.1141(c), 12.115(a)(5), and 12.1181, including providing a basis for assigning appropriate levels of oversight, and an additional data point for consideration when making determinations related to expansion amendments (19 TAC §100.1033).

Overall Score

Overall CSPF Score Calculation	Possible Points
$0.5(\text{academic score}) + 0.3(\text{financial score}) + 0.1(\text{operational score}) + 0.1(\text{governance score})$	100

Tier Ratings

Tier 1 High-Quality Performance	Tier 2 Average Performance	Tier 3 Deficient Performance
Charter schools that attain scores at or above 80% on the CSPF overall and on both the CSPF academic and financial standards.	Charter schools that do not qualify for Tier 1 but attain scores at or above 60% on the CSPF overall and on both the CSPF academic and financial standards.	Charter schools that attain scores below 60% on the CSPF overall or on either the CSPF academic or financial standards, or that receive an overall academic accountability rating of D or F at the district level.

Charter School ABC - 222801



2023 Charter School Performance Framework



123 Main Street

Austin, TX 78701



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www.charterabc.org



About the Charter School

Charter School ABC's mission is to provide equitable access to education for all students.

School Information

2023 Accountability Rating: B

2023 Charter FIRST Rating: A

2023 Accountability Type: Standard

2023 Accreditation Status: Accredited

Enrollment: 200

Grades Served: 9th-12th

Number of Campuses: 1

Superintendent: Jason Smith

Tier and Scores

Indicator	Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Academic	80	50%	40
Financial	95	30%	28.5
Operational	82	10%	8.2
Governance	82	10%	8.2
OVERALL SCORE			85
			TIER 1

Tier Descriptions

1 High-Quality Performance

Charter schools that attain scores at or above 80% overall and on both the academic and financial standards.

2 Average Performance

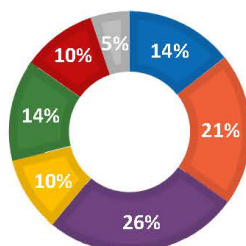
Charter schools that do not qualify for Tier 1 but attain scores at or above 60% overall and on both the academic and financial standards.

3 Deficient Performance

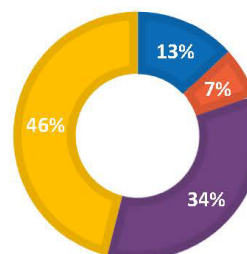
Charter schools that attain scores below 60% overall or on either the academic (an academic rating of D or F at the district level) or financial standards.

Student Demographics

■ African American
■ Hispanic
■ White
■ American Indian
■ Asian



■ Special Education
■ Section 504
■ Emergent Bilingual
■ At-Risk





Academic Indicator			
Indicator		Points Earned	Points Possible
1a	Overall A-F Score	80	100
Financial Indicator			
Indicator		Points Possible	Points Earned
2a	Overall Charter FIRST Score	95	100
Operational Indicators			
Indicator		Points Earned	Points Possible
3a	Teacher Qualifications	0	1
3b	Child Find Requirements	1	1
3c	Bilingual Education Program Requirements	0	1
3d	Criminal Record Employment Requirements	1	1
3e	Timely Filing of PEIMS Data	1	1
3f	Certificate of Occupancy Requirements	1	1
3g	Handling of Secure Assessment Materials	1	1
3h	Eligibility to Participate in Child Nutrition Program	1	1
3i	Safety Requirements: MEOP	1	1
3j	Safety Requirements: Safety Audit	1	1
3k	Do Not Hire Registry Compliance	1	1
Governance Indicators			
Indicator		Points Earned	Points Possible
4a	Governance Reporting Requirements	1	1
4b	Governing Board Training Requirements	1	1
4c	Governing Board Member Names Posting Requirements	1	1
4d	Superintendent Salary Posting Requirements	1	1
4e	Board Conflicts of Interest and Nepotism	1	1
4f	Board Seat Requirements	1	1
4g	501(c)(3) Status	1	1
4h	Criminal Conviction of a Board Member or Charter Officer	1	1
4i	Placement of a Conservator or Monitor	1	1
4j	Early Childhood Literacy and Mathematics Plan	0	1
4k	College, Career, and Military Readiness Plan	0	1

Relevant Terms

Accreditation – Each year, TEA assigns school districts and charter schools one of the following statuses: Accredited, Accredited-Warning, Accredited-Probation, or Not Accredited- Revoked. The accreditation status is based on the academic accountability rating and financial ratings from FIRST. A district or charter school must be accredited by the state to operate as a public school.

Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) Provisions – The provisions under which accountability ratings are assigned to eligible charter districts. AEA provisions include modified targets and specific components in Index 4 of the State Accountability Rating System.

Annual Financial Report (AFR) – The audited annual report required by TEC §44.008 that is due to TEA no later than 150 days after the close of a school district's or charter school's fiscal year. Each school district and charter school are required to report information and financial accountability ratings to parents and taxpayers by holding a public hearing on the AFR within two months after receipt of a final financial accountability rating. The AFR must include a description of the district's or charter school's performance compared to state-established standards and the district's or charter school's previous year's financial accountability rating. It must also include a description of the data submitted using the electronic-based program for the financial solvency review. The AFR must be disseminated to the parents and taxpayers in attendance at the public hearing.

Average Daily Attendance (ADA) – The number of students who are in attendance each day of the school year for the entire school year divided by the number of instructional days in the school year.

Bilingual Education/English as a Second Language (BE/ESL) – Bilingual education and special language programs are designed to help students whose primary language is other than English to master basic English and participate effectively in the state's educational program.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Courses and programs designed to enable students to gain entry-level employment in high-skill, high-wage jobs or to continue their education or both.

English Language Learner (ELL) – A person who is in the process of acquiring English and has another language as the first native language. The terms English language learner and limited English proficient student are used interchangeably.

General Educational Development (GED) – A proprietary, four-subject test designed to determine whether the education level of someone without a high school diploma is equivalent to successful completion of high school.

High-Quality Charter School – In accordance with ESSA, Title IV, Part C Section 4310(8), a high-quality charter school:

- (A) shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong student academic growth, as determined by a State;
- (B) has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial and operational management, or statutory or regulatory compliance;
- (C) has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for all students served by the charter school; and
- (D) has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for each of the subgroups of students, as defined in section 1111(c)(2), except that such demonstration is not required in a case in which the number of students in a

group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

Indicator – An indicator is a general category of performance such as student achievement, long-term financial sustainability, or governance and reporting.

Material Weakness – When one or more internal controls, put in place to prevent significant financial statement irregularities, is considered to be ineffective.

Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) – Encompasses all data requested and received by TEA about public education, including student demographic and academic performance, personnel, financial, and organizational information.

School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) for Charter Schools – The purpose of the financial accountability rating system, School FIRST for Charter Schools, is to ensure that open-enrollment charter schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve those practices. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources in order to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.

Standard Accountability Procedures – The procedures under which most districts and campuses are evaluated. If a charter school (district) does not qualify for evaluation under AEA provisions, then the charter school (district) is evaluated under standard accountability procedures.

Standards – The combination of indicators for each particular area of the framework (educational financial, and operational) comprise a standard.

Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) – An annual report that includes a wide range of information on the performance of students in each district, charter school, and campus in Texas. Performance is shown disaggregated by student groups, including ethnicity and low income status. The reports also provide extensive information on school and district staff, programs, and student demographics.

Texas Consolidated School Rating (TCSR) Report – These reports provide the following information for each Texas public school district, charter school, and campus:

- Academic accountability ratings and distinction designations,
- Financial accountability ratings reported in School FIRST, and
- Locally-assigned Community and Student Engagement ratings and statutory compliance statuses.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) – The TDA oversees the Food and Nutrition Division that implements the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. Texas state law requires that a school must participate in the School Breakfast Program if at least 10 percent of their students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals, and if 80 percent or more of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals a school shall provide breakfast at no charge for all students.

Texas Education Agency Login (TEAL) – This portal allows school district and charter school superintendents and personnel secure access to TEA applications.

Unmodified/Unqualified Opinion – The opinion expressed when the external independent auditor concludes that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with

the applicable financial reporting requirements.