

# Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) Taskforce

Meeting on January 14, 2020

The AEA taskforce made the following recommendations for 2020 accountability. TEA responses to questions and concerns are provided in red.

1. The implementation of an AEA registration system wherein eligible campuses are registered for AEA automatically. Districts could be offered an opportunity each spring to rescind a campus's AEA status.

The auto-registration with a rescission option will be implemented for 2020 accountability.

2. The submission of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) amendment proposing a revised methodology for the federal graduation rate in the Closing the Gaps domain and if approved, implemented for 2020 accountability.

TEA submitted the ESSA amendment to the USDE on January 31, 2020. The department has 120 days to respond. If the amendment is approved, the revisions contained within will be included for 2020 accountability.

3. While the taskforce works on long-term AEA recommendations, the addition of a provision in the accountability manual that excludes an overall *D* or *F* earned by an AEA campus from causing a district's overall rating to be capped at 89.

Performance Reporting is working with the agency's legal staff to propose in the 2020 *Accountability Manual* that only an overall *F* earned by an AEA would impact a district's overall rating.

4. An AEA that earns a *C* or better in the Student Achievement domain should earn a *C* or better overall rating.

This will not be implemented for 2020 accountability. As the taskforce continues work for long-term recommendations, this concept can be further discussed.

5. The addition of an AEA-specific College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) indicator, such as progress towards an industry-based certification or Level I/Level II certificate, be added to the 2020 system.

This will not be implemented for 2020 accountability. TEA encourages the taskforce to continue to explore and suggest rigorous CCMR methodology and indicators for AEA's.

6. The reevaluation of students included in the CCMR denominator for AEA's. Could a minimum enrollment period be applied before students are included? AEA's face a unique challenge of "over age and under-credited" students enrolling shortly before graduation and have limited time to provide CCMR opportunities.

This will not be implemented for 2020 accountability. TEA encourages the taskforce to continue to explore and suggest rigorous CCMR methodology and indicators for AEA's.

7. The weighting methodology used to calculate the Student Achievement domain rating for AEA's be revised until the taskforce finalizes AEA recommendations to be implemented at the accountability reset in 2022. The taskforce recommended the CCMR component weight be reduced from 40 percent and the graduation rate component weight be increased from 20 percent.

While this will not be implemented for 2020 accountability, TEA is open to recommendations on issues such as weighting for AEA's for future accountability cycles.

## Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) Taskforce

8. The weighting methodology used to calculate an overall rating for AEA be revised until the taskforce finalizes AEA recommendations to be implemented at the accountability reset in 2022. The taskforce recommended the weight of the Closing the Gaps domain be decreased for AEA.

While this will not be implemented for 2020 accountability, TEA is open to recommendations on issues such as weighting for AEA for future accountability cycles. This may need legislative action.

9. The agency reconsider the use of counts of assessments when evaluating student groups for minimum size in the Closing the Gaps domain. The taskforce recommended using counts of students to determine minimum size requirements, rather than assessments.

While this will not be implemented for 2020 accountability, TEA is open to recommendations on issues such as minimum size for AEA for future accountability cycles.

10. The agency reconsider the methodology used to award AEA bonus points so that additional AEA campuses are awarded bonus points. Can the agency consider adding a bonus point indicator related to the variance between the state and federal graduation rates?

While this will not be implemented for 2020 accountability, TEA is open to recommendations for possible indicators that evaluate such a variance for future systems.

11. The agency reconsider the minimum number of assessments evaluated for a campus/district to receive an overall rating. The taskforce recommended the current minimum of five reading and five mathematics assessments be increased.

While this will not be implemented for 2020 accountability, TEA is open to recommendations on issues such as minimum size for AEA for future accountability cycles.