

Chapter 1—2023 Accountability Overview

About this Manual

The *2023 Accountability Manual* is a technical guide that explains how the Texas Education Agency (TEA) uses the accountability system to evaluate the academic performance of Texas public schools. The manual describes the accountability system and explains how TEA processes information from different sources to produce 2023 accountability data reports.

The *2023 Accountability Manual* attempts to address all possible scenarios; however, because of the number and diversity of districts and campuses in Texas, there could be unforeseen circumstances that are not anticipated in the manual. If a data source used to determine district or campus performance is unintentionally affected by unforeseen circumstances, including natural disasters or test administration issues, the commissioner of education will consider those circumstances and their impact in determining whether or how that data source will be used to assign accountability ratings and award distinction designations. In such instances, the commissioner will interpret the manual as needed to assign the appropriate ratings and/or award distinction designations that preserve both the intent and the integrity of the accountability system.

Accountability Advisory Groups

Educators, school board members, business and community representatives, professional organizations, and legislative representatives from across the state have been instrumental in developing the current accountability system.

Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG) includes representatives from school districts, legislative offices, and the business community. Members identify issues critical to the accountability system, make recommendations, and provide feedback on major policy issues.

ESC Accountability Group (EAG) includes representatives from each regional education service center (ESC) in the state. Members identify issues critical to the accountability system and make recommendations/provide feedback on major policy issues.

Accountability Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) included representatives from school districts, charter schools, and regional education service centers (ESCs). Members made recommendations to address technical issues for 2023 accountability.

Accountability Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) included representatives from legislative offices, school districts, charter schools, parents, and the business community. Members made recommendations to address policy issues for 2023 accountability.

The commissioner considered all proposals and released preliminary A–F frameworks in June and November of 2022 and January and March of 2023. The final 2023 A–F System Framework was released in October 2023.

The accountability development proposals and supporting materials that were reviewed and discussed at each advisory group meeting are available online at <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/2023-accountability-development-materials>.

Overview of the 2023 Accountability System

The overall design of the accountability system evaluates performance according to three domains:

Student Achievement evaluates performance across all subjects for all students on both general and alternate assessments; College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) indicators; and graduation rates.

School Progress measures outcomes in two areas: the number of students that grew, or were accelerated, at least one year academically (or are on track) as measured by STAAR results and the achievement of all students relative to campuses with similar economically disadvantaged percentages.

Closing the Gaps uses disaggregated data to demonstrate differentials among racial/ethnic groups, socioeconomic background, and other factors. The indicators included in this domain, as well as the domain's construction, align the state accountability system with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Who is Rated?

Districts and campuses with students enrolled in the fall 2022–23 school year are assigned a state accountability rating. For this purpose, students are considered enrolled if they are in membership. In order for a student to be in membership they must be scheduled to attend at least two hours of instruction each school day or participate in an alternative attendance accounting program.

Students instructed virtually are included in accountability calculations in the same manner as in-person students. Students enrolled in virtual courses under an agreement described by Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 29.9091, are considered enrolled in the sending district or school for purposes of average daily attendance and accountability.

Districts

Beginning the first year they report fall enrollment, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools are rated by proportionally weighting the domain scores of each campus, based on the number of students enrolled in grades 3–12 at each campus in the TSDS PEIMS October Snapshot. Districts without any students enrolled in the grades for which STAAR assessments are administered (3–12) are assigned the rating label of *Not Rated*. Please see “Chapter 5—Calculating 2023 Ratings” for more on District Proportional Domain Methodology.

State-administered school districts, including Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Texas School for the Deaf, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and Windham School District, are not assigned a state accountability rating.

Campuses

Beginning the first year they report fall enrollment, campuses and open-enrollment charter schools, including alternative education campuses (AECs), are rated based on the performance of their students. To assign accountability ratings, campuses that do not serve any grade level for which the STAAR assessments are administered are paired with campuses in their district that serve students who take STAAR. Please see “Chapter 7—Other Accountability System Processes” for information on pairing.

Rating Labels

Districts and campuses receive an overall rating, as well as a rating for each domain. The rating labels for districts and campuses are as follows.

- **A, B, C, D, or F:** Assigned for overall performance and for performance in each domain to districts and campuses (including those evaluated under alternative education accountability [AEA]) that meet the performance target for the letter grade.
- **Not Rated:** Indicates that a district or campus does not receive a rating for one or more of the following reasons:
 - The district or campus has no data in the accountability subset.
 - The district or campus has insufficient data to assign a rating.
 - The district operates only residential facilities.
 - The campus is a juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP).
 - The campus is a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP).
 - The campus is a residential facility.
 - The commissioner otherwise determines that the district or campus will not be rated.
- **Data Under Review** indicates that a district or campus has data that fell outside of an expected range or has otherwise been identified for having local practices potentially inconsistent with TEA guidelines which could impact performance results within TEA’s discretion to identify. These data variances and/or local practices necessitate a more comprehensive data-related compliance review by TEA that may include asking for clarification and documentation to validate the data reported. If concerns are not resolved after the completion of a compliance review, the matter may be referred to TEA’s Special Investigations Unit for review as a special investigation and TEA may elect to assign the district or campus with a temporary *Data Under Review* label. This label may be applied at any point, including to either a preliminary or final rating. TEA will take the response provided by the district or campus into consideration before making any final determination about possible wrongdoing.
- **Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues** indicates that a special investigation has found data accuracy or integrity have compromised performance results (whether intentional or not), making it impossible to assign the district or campus a rating. The assignment of a *Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues* label is permanent.
- **Not Rated: Annexation** indicates that the campus is in its first school year after annexation by another district and, therefore, is not rated, as allowed by the annexation agreement with the agency.

See Chapter 9 for more information on how these ratings impact sanctions and interventions.

Distinction Designations

Districts and campuses that receive acceptable accountability ratings are eligible to earn distinction designations (acceptable performance is defined as an overall rating of *A, B, or C* for 2023). Distinction designations are awarded for achievement in several areas and are based on performance relative to a group of campuses of similar type, size, grade span, and student demographics. Districts are eligible for a distinction designation in postsecondary readiness. Please see “Chapter 6—Distinction Designations” for more information.

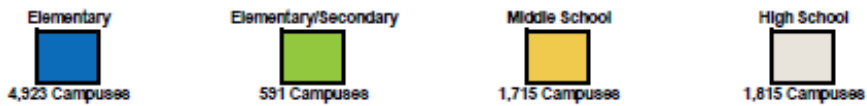
2023 Accountability System School Types

Every campus is labeled as one of four school types according to its grade span based on 2022–23 enrollment data reported in the fall Texas Student Data System (TSDS) PEIMS submission. The four types—elementary school, middle school, elementary/secondary (also referred to as K–12), and high

school—are illustrated by the following table. The table shows every combination of grade levels served by campuses in Texas and the number of campuses that serve each of those combinations. The shading indicates the corresponding school type.

To find out how a campus that serves a certain grade span is labeled, find the lowest grade level reported as being served by that campus along the leftmost column and the highest grade level reported as being served along the top row. The shading of the cell where the two grade levels intersect indicates which of the four school types that campus is considered. The number inside the cell indicates how many campuses in Texas served that grade span in 2022–23. For example, a campus that serves early elementary (EE) through grade four is labeled elementary school; there are 175 campuses that serve only that grade span. A campus that serves grades five and six only is labeled middle school, and there are 113 such campuses statewide.

2023 Accountability System School Types
(9,044 Total Campuses)



		Highest Grade Level Served →														
		EE	PK	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lowest Grade Level Served ↓	EE	7	85	64	47	85	25	175	1202	113	.	7	.	.	.	33
	PK	.	45	16	6	22	19	147	1244	186	13	135	3	3	3	177
	KG	.	.	1	3	13	19	106	608	70	7	39	7	1	2	58
	1	.	.	.	.	10	19	6	95	16	.	4	1	.	.	11
	2	.	.	.	.	.	11	6	36	2	.	1	.	.	.	4
	3	.	.	.	.	.	3	7	109	8	.	8	2	2	1	12
	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	38	24	2	5	2	1	3	4
	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	113	2	81	4	2	4	20
	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	21	11	1243	13	17	18	200
	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	186	7	7	26	118
	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15	7	8	25	36
	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30	24	33	1394
	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16	7	35
	11	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16	22
12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18	

TEA Division of Performance Reporting

2023 STAAR-Based Indicators

Accountability Subset Rule

A subset of assessment results is used to calculate each domain. The calculation includes only assessment results for students enrolled in the campus in a previous fall, as reported on the TSDS PEIMS October snapshot. Three assessment administration periods are considered for accountability purposes:

STAAR results are included in the subset of district/campus accountability	if the student was enrolled in the district/campus on this date:
EOC summer 2022 administration	October 2021 enrollment snapshot
EOC fall 2022 administration	October 2022 enrollment snapshot
EOC spring 2023 administration	
Grades 3–8 spring 2023 administration	

The 2023 accountability subset rules apply to the STAAR performance results evaluated across all three domains.

- Grades 3–8: campuses are responsible for students reported as enrolled in the fall (referred to as October snapshot) in the spring assessment results.
- End-of-Course (EOC): campuses are responsible for
 - summer 2022 results for students reported as enrolled in the October 2021 snapshot;
 - fall 2022 results for students reported as enrolled in the October 2022 snapshot; and
 - spring 2023 results for students reported as enrolled in the October 2022 snapshot.

STAAR Retest Performance

The opportunity to retest is available to students who have taken EOC assessments in any subject.

- EOC retesters are counted as passers based on the passing standard in place when they were first eligible to take any EOC assessment.

In this case, the best result from each administration is found for each subject retested. Secondly, the accountability subset rules determine whether the result is included in accountability. If all results have the same level of performance, then the most recent result is selected for performance calculation. If a STAAR result is eligible for growth under School Progress, Part A: Academic Growth, the result is included in growth calculations if the result meets the accountability subset rule. The following charts provide examples of how the accountability subset is applied to EOC retesters.

Accountability Subset Examples for EOC Retesters

<i>Enrolled</i>	<i>Tested</i>	<i>Enrolled</i>	<i>Tested</i>	<i>Tested</i>
October 2021 Snapshot Campus A	Summer 2022 Campus A	October 2022 Snapshot Campus A	Fall 2022 Campus A	Spring 2023 Campus A
The best result is selected. Each result meets the accountability subset rule.				

The best result is found for performance (most recent result) and growth (only available), considered separately. The selected result is only applied to the campus that administered the assessment if the student meets the accountability subset rule (discussed above).

<i>Enrolled</i>	<i>Tested</i>	<i>Enrolled</i>	<i>Tested</i>	<i>Tested</i>
October 2021 Snapshot Campus A	Summer 2022 Campus A	October 2022 Snapshot Campus A	Fall 2022 Campus A	Spring 2023 Campus B
The best result is selected. Only the fall 2022 result meets the accountability subset rule. If spring 2023 was selected as the best result, the result would not meet the accountability subset rule for inclusion at Campus A or Campus B.				

SAT/ACT Inclusion—Accountability Subset

The SAT/ACT results of accelerated testers (or the non-participation of accelerated testers in SAT/ACT) are attributed to the campus at which the student was reported as enrolled on October 2022 PEIMS snapshot. Please see Chapter 2 for additional information on accelerated testers and the inclusion of SAT/ACT results.

2023 TSDS PEIMS-Based Indicators

One of the primary sources of data used in the accountability system is the TSDS PEIMS data collection. The TSDS PEIMS data collection has a prescribed process and timeline that offers school districts the opportunity to correct data submission errors or data omissions discovered following the initial data submission. TSDS PEIMS data provided by school districts and used to create specific indicators are listed below.

TSDS PEIMS data used for accountability indicators	Data for
4-year Longitudinal Graduation Rate	Class of 2022
5-year Longitudinal Graduation Rate	Class of 2021
6-year Longitudinal Graduation Rate	Class of 2020
Annual Dropout Rate	2021–22 school year
Graduate with Completed IEP and Workforce Readiness	
Graduate Under an Advanced Diploma Plan and Identified as a Current Special Education Student	
Earn an Industry-Based Certification	Earned during 2021–22, 2020–21, 2019–20, and 2018–19 school years
Complete College Prep Course	
Dual Credit Course Completion	
Earn an Associate Degree	

2023 Other Indicators

The CCMR component of the accountability system includes data from ACT, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), SAT, Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment results, OnRamps, and level I and level II certificates.

Other data used for College, Career, and Military Readiness	Data reported for
ACT college admissions test	Tests as of July 2022 administration (2021–22, 2020–21, 2019–20, and 2018–19 school years)
AP examination	Tests as of June 2022 administration (2021–22, 2020–21, 2019–20, and 2018–19 school years)
IB examination	Tests as of May 2022 administration (2021–22, 2020–21, 2019–20, and 2018–19 school years)

Other data used for College, Career, and Military Readiness	Data reported for
TSI assessment	Tests from June 2012 to October 2022 administration
SAT college admissions test	Tests as of June 2022 administration (2021–22, 2020–21, 2019–19, and 2018–19 school years)
OnRamps dual enrollment course completion	Courses completed during the 2021–22, 2020–21, 2019– 20, and 2018–19 school years
Level I and level II certificates	Certificates earned during the 2021–22, 2020–21, 2019– 20, and 2018–19 school years

*The military enlistment indicator is scheduled to return for 2024 accountability based on a new data collection as explained in the [September 9, 2022 To The Administrator Addressed](#) correspondence.

Ensuring Data Integrity

Accurate data is fundamental to accountability ratings. The system depends on the responsible collection and submission of assessment and TSDS PEIMS information by school districts and charter schools. Responsibility for the accuracy and quality of data used to determine district and campus ratings, therefore, rests with local authorities. An appeal that is solely based on a district's submission of inaccurate data will likely be denied.

Because accurate and reliable data are the foundation of the accountability system, TEA has established several steps to protect the quality and integrity of the data and the accountability ratings that are based on that data.

- Campus Number Tracking:** Requests for campus number changes may be approved with consideration of prior state accountability ratings. Ratings of *D* or *F* for the same campus assigned two different campus numbers may be considered as consecutive years of unacceptable ratings for accountability interventions and sanctions, if the commissioner determines this is necessary to preserve the integrity of the accountability system.
- Data Validation System:** Data Validation is a data-driven system designed to confirm the integrity of district submitted data. Annual data validation analyses examine districts' leaver and dropout data, student assessment data, and discipline data and may also validate other district submitted data. Districts identified with potential data integrity concerns engage in a process to either validate the accuracy of their data or determine that erroneous data were submitted. This process is fundamental to the integrity of all the agency's evaluation systems. For more information, see the Data Validation Manuals on the PBM website at <http://tea.texas.gov/pbm/DVManuals.aspx>.
- Test Security:** As part of ongoing efforts to improve security measures surrounding the assessment program, TEA uses a comprehensive set of test security procedures designed to assure parents, students, and the public that assessment results are meaningful and valid. Among other measures, districts are required to implement seating charts during all administrations and maintain certain test administration materials for five years. All testing personnel are required to be trained in test security and administration procedures at least once. However, annual test administration training

is strongly encouraged, especially for policies and procedures that have changed. Detailed information about test security policies for the state assessment program is available online at <https://txassessmentdocs.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/ODCCM/pages/2793212784/Test+Security>

- **Data-Related Compliance Reviews and Special Investigations:** TEA’s data-related compliance reviews are a collaborative review process with districts to ensure they are acting in accordance with state law and other regulatory requirements. The reviews are based on data submitted by districts (or other sources) that could impact performance results. TEA requests documentation and other information from districts by a particular deadline to review and determine whether there has been a violation and commonly works with the districts to bring them into compliance and/or to establish better local practices.
 - If TEA’s data-related compliance reviews do not resolve the concerns raised, TEA may elect to open a special investigation under TEC §39.003 to review these more consequential concerns.
 - If TEA makes a preliminary determination that the accuracy and/or integrity of performance results may have been compromised (whether intentional or not), TEA may issue a temporary *Data Under Review* label at any point, including on either a preliminary or final rating.
 - If the results of a special investigation determine that the accuracy and/or integrity of performance results have been compromised (whether intentional or not), TEA may elect to issue the district or campus a *Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues* final accountability rating label. A *Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues* accountability rating label does not break the chain of consecutive years of unacceptable accountability ratings for accountability sanctions and intervention purposes. All districts and campuses with a final rating label of *Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues* are automatically subject to desk audits the following year. As a result of a special investigation, TEA may elect to take actions and interventions under Chapters 39 and 39A, including (but not limited to) lowering an accountability rating.

These steps can occur either before or after the ratings release, and sanctions can be imposed at any time. To the extent possible, ratings are finalized when updated ratings are released following the resolution of appeals. A rating change resulting from an imposed sanction will stand as the final rating for the year.