

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>October 24, 2024</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Information for School Systems Identified as Having a High Dropout Rate</b>
<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<b>Division of School Improvement Communication</b>
<b>NEXT STEPS:</b>	<b>Share with appropriate staff</b>

Texas continues to proactively engage in efforts to support dropout prevention, high school completion and college and career readiness. State law ([TEC §29.918](#)) requires school districts or open-enrollment charter schools with a high dropout rate, as determined by the commissioner of education, to submit a plan each year describing how the district or charter school will use the Compensatory Education Allotment for developing and implementing strategies for dropout prevention.

## Identification

To identify districts or charter schools with “relatively high dropout rates,” only districts/charter schools with dropout rates above their respective accountability group averages were referred to the Division of School Improvement:

- A four-year longitudinal dropout rate above 5.1% for standard accountability districts/charter schools; and
- A four-year longitudinal dropout rate above 55.9% for Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) districts/charter schools.

**The top 25% of standard accountability districts/charters identified as having a “relatively high dropout rate” are required to submit a Dropout Prevention Plan and Needs Assessment** via the Intervention, Stage, and Activity Manager (ISAM) application in TEAL.

- Districts/charter schools held to standard accountability are required to submit a dropout prevention plan if they had a longitudinal dropout rate **greater than or equal to 10.5%**.

**All AEA districts/charters identified as having a “relatively high dropout rate” are required to submit a Dropout Prevention Plan and Needs Assessment** via the Intervention, Stage, and Activity Manager (ISAM) application in TEAL.

- Districts/charter schools held to alternative education accountability (AEA) standards with a longitudinal dropout rate **greater than or equal to 55.9%** are also required to submit a dropout prevention plan.

## Statutory Submission Requirements

At a minimum, the dropout prevention plan must include the following items as outlined in TEC, §29.918(d):

1. Career and Technology Education courses or technology applications courses that lead to industry or career certification.
2. Research-based strategies to assist students in becoming able academically to pursue postsecondary education, including:
  - i. High-quality, college readiness instruction with strong academic and social supports.
  - ii. Secondary to postsecondary bridging that builds college readiness skills, provides a plan for college completion, and ensures transition counseling.

- iii. Information concerning appropriate supports available in the first year of postsecondary enrollment to ensure postsecondary persistence and success.
3. Plan to offer advanced academic and transition opportunities, including dual credit courses and college preparatory courses, such as advanced placement courses.

### **Dropout Prevention Plan and Needs Assessment Template**

Districts identified as having a “relatively high dropout rate” will complete the [Dropout Prevention Plan and Needs Assessment](#) (found on the [TEA Dropout Prevention Plan webpage](#)) and submit it to the Texas Education Agency via the Intervention, Stage, and Activity Manager (ISAM) application in [TEAL](#) by **November 22, 2024**. The workbook contains all statutory requirements and additional open-ended questions in the second tab (Needs Assessment) regarding processes, procedures, training, and program effectiveness for the district/charter school’s dropout prevention plan. **Note: The portal in TEAL will be available starting November 1, 2024.**

**Districts/charter schools are expected to enter a response to all questions in both tabs of the workbook.**

### **Contact Information**

Texas Education Agency Division of School Improvement  
(512)463-5226  
[SIDivision@tea.texas.gov](mailto:SIDivision@tea.texas.gov)