

### QUICK GUIDE TO

# Understanding Academic Accountability for Texas Charter Schools

Charter school boards play a critical role in ensuring that the students, in the school they are governing, are learning and achieving academic success. Texas has developed several academic accountability systems to measure whether students are learning and achieving educational success. Texas's accountability systems include the Texas Academic Accountability Ratings, the Charter School Performance Framework (CSPF) and the Texas School Accreditation Ratings. Charter school boards need to understand how their school is performing under these state accountability systems as they are one of the determining factors in contract renewal and revocation decisions.

## Texas Academic Accountability Ratings

**Purpose:** Charter schools in Texas receive an annual academic accountability rating of "A-F" at both the school and district levels. The letter rating that a school receives is based on its performance on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). STAAR includes annual assessments in reading and mathematics for grades 3-8, writing in grades 4 and 7, science in grades 5 and 8 and social studies in grade 8. High schoolers take end-of-course assessments in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology and United States History.

### What Does it Measure?

Accountability ratings take into consideration student achievement and progress towards proficiency on the STAAR and whether achievement gaps amongst high-risk student subgroups are being closed. Ratings for high schools are also based on graduation rates and college, career and military readiness outcomes.

### Where can you Find More Information?

You can find more information about Texas's Academic Accountability System at

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/a-f-resources>

including how a school's rating is calculated. You can find a copy of each school's accountability results at <https://txschools.gov/>.

### What do the Ratings Mean?

- A = Achieved a scaled score of 90-100
- B = Achieved a scaled score of 80-89
- C = Achieved a scaled score of 70-79
- D = Achieved a scaled score of 60-69
- F = Achieved a scaled score of < 59

## The Charter School Performance Framework (CSPF)

**Purpose:** The Charter School Performance Framework (CSPF) provides a snapshot of each charter's academic, financial, and operational performance at the district level. Texas's charter school law (100.1010) requires that the CSP be used to measure the performance of an open-enrollment charter school. It's one of the tools used by authorizers to help inform decisions regarding contract renewal, intervention, or revocation.

### What does it Measure?

A charter school's academic framework score is based on the following components:

- A charter school's overall accountability rating under Texas's academic accountability system.
- The percent of indicators met on Closing the Gaps under Texas's academic accountability system.
- The overall accountability ratings for individual campuses under the school's charter contract.

**Where can you Find More Information?**

A description of the CSPF standards and a copy of the CSPF report for each open-enrollment charter school in Texas can be found at: [http://castro.tea.state.tx.us/charter\\_apps/production/performance.html](http://castro.tea.state.tx.us/charter_apps/production/performance.html).

**What do the Ratings Mean?**

The TEA has recently introduced tiered level of supports to charter schools based on their performance on the CSPF. Tiering the TEA charter school portfolio increases transparency, allows for clear communication of performance ratings, and identifies low-performing schools that should be subject to increased oversight. Under this new tiering system, charter schools will be classified in the following manner:

	Definition	Oversight
<b>Tier 1: High Quality Performance</b>	Score 80% or above on the CSPF overall and on both the academic and financial frameworks.	Score 80% or above on the CSPF overall and on both the academic and financial frameworks.
<b>Tier 2: Average Performance</b>	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 frameworks.	TEA will provide increased levels of oversight and may request the school provide additional information. Tier 2 schools also meet minimum expansion and renewal qualifications, but TEA will use CSPF performance to inform decisions.
<b>Tier 3: Deficient Performance (Performance Watch List Status)</b>	Charter schools that attain scores below 60% on the CSPF overall or on either the CSPF academic or financial framework, or that receive an overall academic accountability rating of D or F at the district level.	TEA will provide substantial oversight and may require improvement plans from Tier 3 schools. Tier 3 schools will not qualify for expansion. Schools remaining in Tier 3 for multiple years may have their charter revoked.

**Texas School Accreditation**

**Purpose:** The TEA accredits all K-12 public schools in Texas including charter schools. Charter schools that receive a low academic accountability rating and/or financial performance rating for three consecutive years are in danger of having their charter contract revoked by the TEA. Under this accreditation system, all public schools annually receive one of the following accreditation designations from the TEA:

- Accredited;
- Accredited-Warned;
- Accredited-Probation; and
- Not Accredited-Revoked

**What does it Measure?** It is looking at a charter school's academic and financial accountability ratings across multiple years.

**Where can you Find More Information?** A listing of schools and their accreditation status can be found at: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/accreditation/accreditation-status>.

**What do the Ratings Mean?**

- Accredited: The school received an acceptable academic and financial accountability rating.
- Accredited-Warned: Two consecutive school years of an academic accountability rating of Academically Unacceptable or Improvement Required or a financial accountability rating of substandard achievement or suspended data quality or one year of a poor academic and financial accountability rating.
- Accredited-Probation: Three consecutive school years of an academic accountability rating of Academically Unacceptable or Improvement Required or a financial accountability rating of substandard achievement or suspended data quality or one year of a poor academic and financial accountability rating.
- Not Accredited-Revoked: Four consecutive school years of an academic accountability rating of Academically Unacceptable or Improvement Required or a financial accountability rating of substandard achievement or suspended data quality or one year of a poor academic and financial accountability rating.