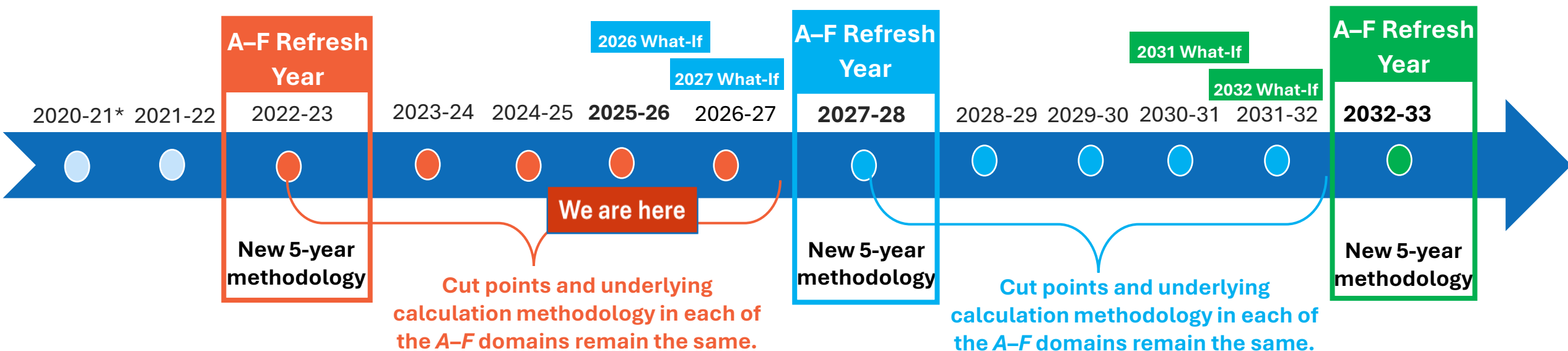


Preliminary 2028 A-F Refresh Framework & House Bill 8

September 18, 2025

The A–F system remains the same for 5 years.

We don't keep changing the bar, as this allows for better year-over-year comparisons. But we continuously review feedback to make design changes once every five years.



New HB 8 Implications

- 5-year refresh now explicitly codified
- The commissioner cannot raise cut scores outside of the refresh cycle
- Refresh rules must be communicated two years before the refresh (Adopt Manual Late Summer 2026)
- What-if ratings must be provided for those two years (2026 and 2027 What-ifs)

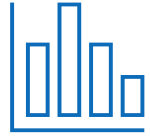
Any changes planned for the 2027-28 A-F Refresh are based on extensive feedback, research, and statutory requirements



Years of public feedback collected through formal surveys, open comment forms, and stakeholder forums.



Guidance and recommendations from Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG), RDA/A–F Integration Taskforce, and the Distinction Designations Committee.



Extensive modeling and advisory group discussions, with all major proposals reviewed.

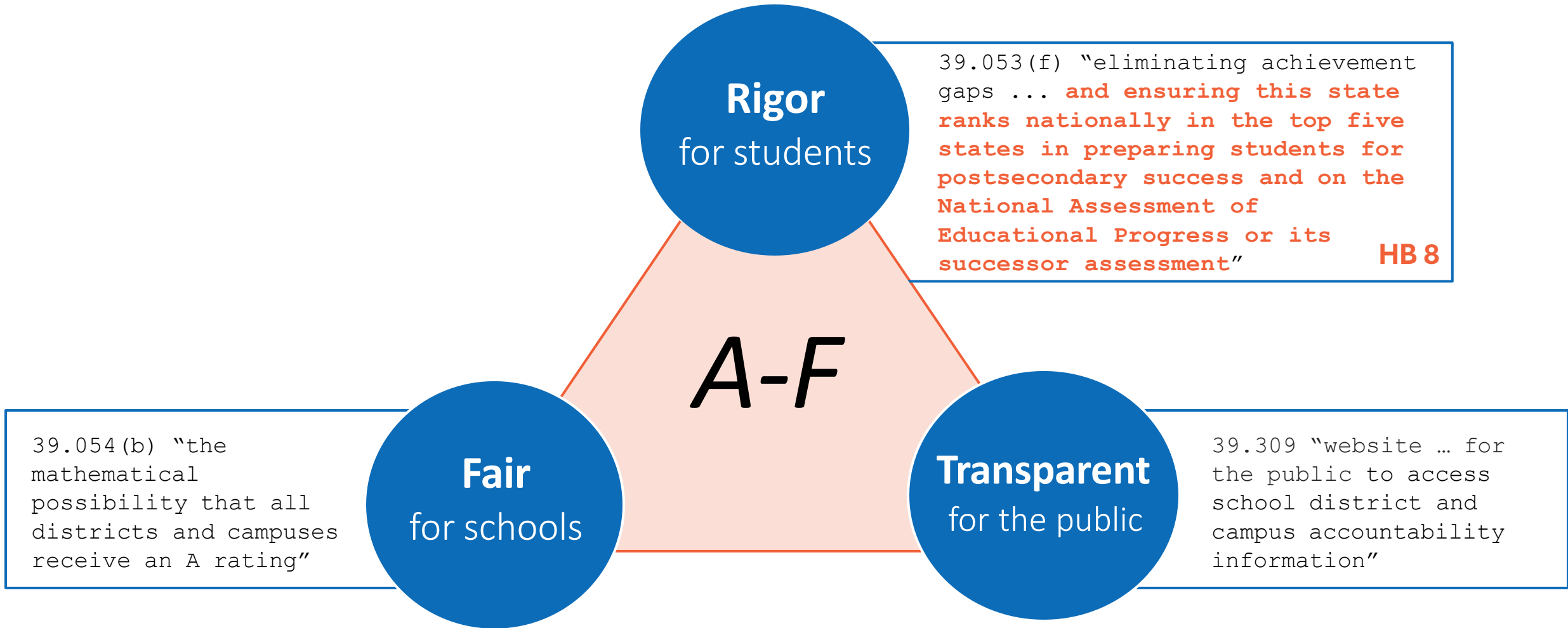


Legislative requirements (e.g., HB 22, SB 2124, HB 773) and alignment with ESSA mandates. *The preliminary framework will be reviewed and updated to ensure alignment with HB 8.*

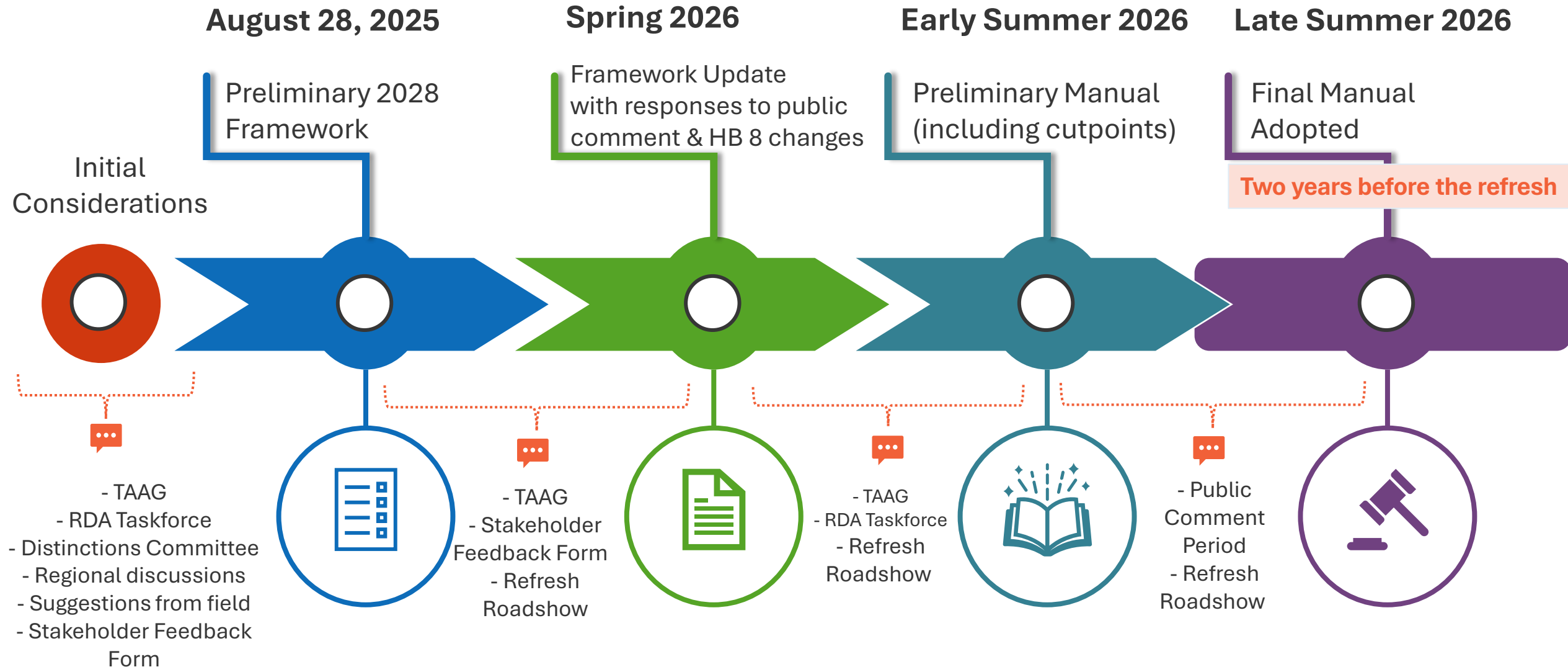


Direct responses to public and district feedback on issues such as transparency, rigor, fairness, and the need for more meaningful postsecondary indicators and reporting.

Balancing multiple objectives in the A-F system



Timeline moving forward, to incorporate HB 8 changes, and get to final rule adoption by late summer for the 2027-28 accountability manual



All estimated dates are tentative and subject to change.

2028 A-F Refresh Proposed Changes: Preliminary Framework

Student Achievement

- **Accelerated Testers**
 - Bonus points for students enrolled in grades 5 through 8 passing End-of-Course assessments
 - Updated performance level standards for accelerated testers' SAT/ACT scores
- **CCMR**
 - **IBCs:** Students earning CCMR only from a Tier 3 Industry Based Certification (IBC) is capped at 5 students or 5% of 2027 graduates, whichever is higher.
 - ****College Preparatory Courses:** Courses must be on the TEA approved list.

School Progress

- No proposed changes.
- *Tier 3 IBC cap, bonus point and SAT/ACT score changes for Accelerated Testers applies in Domain 2b*

Closing the Gaps

- New Campus Scoring (district proxy for prior year data) for 1 or 2 points
- Safe Harbor Provision (allowable dip in performance) for 2 points
- **Districts only:** Add Part B, Special Populations Monitoring (Integration of RDA)
- *SAT/ACT score changes for Accelerated Testers applies in Domain 3*

Distinction Designations

- Addition of Alternative Campuses (AEC)/Dropout Recovery Schools (DRS) as a comparison group
- Addition of four postsecondary success indicators
- Removal of attendance rate from Academic Achievement Distinctions

This set of changes that make up the preliminary A-F Refresh framework (starting 2027-28) was developed over a long period of time and was posted on August 28, 2025.

On September 4, 2025, the Texas legislature sent HB 8 to the Governor, and he signed HB 8 into law on September 17, 2025.

New statutory requirements will necessitate additional changes to this framework.

2028 System Development and Framework

Accountability System Development

Overview

The purpose of the state accountability system is to continuously improve student performance, eliminate achievement gaps between student groups, and ensure Texas is a national leader in preparing students for postsecondary success.

Information gathered throughout the 2024 - 2027 interim continuous review process and in preparation for the 2028 refresh will be provided on this page.

2028 Accountability Refresh

Approximately every five years, the A-F accountability system is refreshed using the ideas and data gathered during the interim years. The last accountability refresh occurred in 2023, and the next refresh is scheduled for 2028. **The Preliminary 2028 A-F Refresh Framework is now available.** Consistent with the Texas Education Agency's commitment to solicit stakeholder feedback throughout our work, the Performance Reporting division has launched a survey to gather public input and guide development of the refreshed accountability system starting in the 2027-28 school year.

This survey will remain open through spring 2026 to assist with the publication of the Preliminary 2028 Accountability Manual in summer 2026.

2028 A-F Refresh Public Feedback 

Additional opportunities to provide input on the 2028 Accountability Refresh will be available as the proposal moves through each stage of the process. The final adopted 2028 Accountability Manual is planned for release in fall 2026, allowing districts the entire 2026-27 school year to prepare for implementation of the refreshed A-F Accountability System beginning in the 2027-28 school year.

Please see the tentative [2028 A-F Refresh Timeline](#) for more information.

Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG)



The 2028 Preliminary A-F Accountability Framework

Posted on [2028 Accountability
Development Website](#)
August 28, 2025

[TAA](#)
September 4, 2025

[Link to Framework](#)

[Link to Provide Feedback](#)

TEA invites you to a 2028 A-F Refresh Roadshow



Our goals in the Refresh Roadshow are to:

- Raise stakeholder awareness and knowledge
- Support campuses and districts in effective planning
- Garner meaningful public comment

Join us at our Refresh Roadshow launch webinar to learn about the 2028 Refresh!

September 23rd at 9am

or

September 24th at 3pm

Select your preferred time below to register

September 23rd at 9am: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2A0pS1OTQLCZhpiqP-92qA

September 24th at 3pm: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k9a5cigTRMCCorXz2nf7Eg



HB 8 Implications



House Bill 8 (2nd called) - Accountability Implications

- A-F rules must be adopted by July 15 before the start of each school year, otherwise prior year rules apply
- The five-year A-F refresh cycle is codified, with the next refresh effective 2027-2028
 - The commissioner cannot raise cut scores outside of the refresh cycle
 - Refresh rules must be communicated two years before the refresh; what-if ratings must be provided for those two years
 - The commissioner must use a specific approach to raise cut scores during each refresh, using a 15-year goal of having Texas reach the top 5 states in postsecondary readiness and NAEP
- Legislative oversight of A-F rulemaking is increased:
 - Accountability advisory committee must include legislative staff
 - Refresh rules must be communicated to the legislature before adoption
 - TEA must notify the legislature of any known statutory non-compliance issues (e.g., if A-F ratings aren't issued by Aug 15)
- Industry-based certification (IBC) updates will align with the five-year A-F refresh cycle
 - The commissioner must consider IBC lists developed by Tri-Agency and TWC Advisory Board
 - IBC requirements, including high-wage and high-skill standards, are codified
 - IBCs removed from the list must have a phase-out period, so that students who begin an IBC path can complete it
- When assessments change, TEA must conduct analyses to establish comparable performance standards to ensure consistency in the accountability system.
- Starting with future refresh:
 - Students can demonstrate military readiness by completing a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program (JROTC) and achieving a passing score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB)
 - CCMR indicators must be weighted based on their correlation with postsecondary success
 - In Domain 3, TEA must use alternative data to evaluate the performance of a new campus that doesn't have prior-year data
 - TEA must allow for additional data submission for CCMR indicators that use prior-year data
- TEA must develop a through-year growth measure for grade levels with required BOY and MOY assessments and present the measure to accountability advisory committees and the legislature to consider future incorporation into A-F
- TEA must collect and report on optional local indicators: extracurricular engagement, pre-K participation, math/reading academy completion rates, middle school CTE participation, and advanced course completion rates
- TEA must establish a grant program to support LEAs in adopting a local A-F campus rating system that is different than the state system

HB 8 requires the A-F refresh to incorporate certain components

New HB 8 Implications for the 2028 A-F Preliminary Framework

Cut Scores: “The commissioner shall increase the rigor by which the commissioner determines the overall performance ratings...to, not later than the 15th year after the date the commissioner modifies the performance standards...[ensure] this state ranks nationally in the top five states in preparing students for postsecondary success and on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.”

Optional Indicators: “The agency shall collect for reporting purposes only information ...regarding local indicators of student engagement and workforce development.”

Domain 3: “the agency shall use appropriate alternative prior-year data to evaluate the performance...of a newly established campus that lacks the prior-year data necessary to complete a portion of the calculation methodology.”

New HB 8 Implications for Future A-F

Through-year Growth: “The agency shall develop a measure of student through-year instructional growth...not later than the 2029-2030 school year, the commissioner shall present the measure...to the accountability advisory committee.”

CCMR: “The agency shall study the college, career, and military readiness indicators... to determine the correlation of each indicator with postsecondary success...The value assigned to each indicator must be...based on the strength of the indicator’s correlation with successful outcomes.”

CCMR: “demonstrate military readiness...by achieving a passing score, set by the commissioner...on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test and successfully completing a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program.”

Prior-year CCMR data: “the agency shall ensure that a school district may submit additional prior-year information relating to the indicator during the specified time period during which the district may submit additional current-year information.”

STAAR to SST: “the agency must conduct a performance comparison analysis between the program as changed and the preceding program to establish roughly comparable standards for issuing performance ratings.”



House Bill 8 (2nd called) - Assessment Implications

- The last year STAAR will be administered is the 2026-2027 school year
- STAAR is replaced with a new instructionally supportive statewide assessment program, called by statute the **Student Success Tool**, starting in 2027-2028:
 - Beginning-of-year (BOY), middle-of-year (MOY), and end-of-year (EOY) assessments are required to monitor progress and report growth throughout the year; teachers can use results to improve instruction
 - BOY and MOY are optional for end-of-course (Algebra I, Biology, English I, U.S. History);
 - Students with significant cognitive disabilities are exempt from BOY or MOY assessments
 - TEA must approve a list of alternative norm-referenced BOY and MOY assessments that LEAs can use
 - Assessments must be shorter than the current STAAR, and EOY must happen later in the school year (May)
 - The writing portion of Reading Language Arts (RLA) tests must be shorter and administered earlier (early April) to ensure results can be available as soon as students take the rest of the RLA test
 - TEA must automatically rescore the writing portion if the student is one point away from attaining the next highest performance level on the test
 - Results must be returned almost immediately, within 2 business days of the end of testing (unless standard-setting is required) and must be easily accessible to parents via an online portal.
 - Criterion-based performance levels must remain the same each year, and performance level tables and cut scores must be published before tests are administered.
 - All items must be reviewed and approved by committees of current Texas teachers
 - All items must be evaluated to be written at a grade-level appropriate reading level
 - Practice tests and non-curricular benchmarks tests are prohibited to cut down on missed instructional time
- English II EOC eliminated effective 2027-28; IGCs eligible for students who pass at least two remaining EOCs

More details related HB 8's new Student Success Tool, which starts **effective 2027-28**, will be shared in the coming months.