Appendix E—School Types and Campus Comparison Groups

Each campus is assigned to a unique comparison group made up of Texas schools that are most similar to it. To determine the campus comparison group, each campus is identified by school type (See the Accountability System School Types chart below.) then grouped with 40 other campuses from anywhere in Texas that are most similar in grade levels served, size, percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged, mobility rate, percentage of emergent bilingual students, percentage of students served by special education, and percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program. Each campus has only one unique campus comparison group. There is no limit on the number of comparison groups to which a campus may be a member. It is possible for a campus to be a member of no comparison group other than its own or a member of several comparison groups.

Accountability System School Types

Every campus is labeled as one of four school types according to its grade span based on enrollment data reported in the fall 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 combinations of grade levels served by campuses in Texas. 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. For example, a campus that serves early elementary (EE) through grade four is labeled elementary school. A campus that serves grades five and six only is labeled middle school. The below table is an example from 2026 accountability.

2026 Accountability System School Types

(9,103 Total Campuses)

Elementary	Elementary/Secondary	Middle School	High School
4,888 Campuses	687 Campuses	1,702 Campuses	1,826 Campuses

Highest Grade Level Served →

Lowest Grade Level Served ↓

	EE	PK	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
EE	6	85	60	40	91	28	190	1317	102	0	11	0	0	1	30
PK		63	14	6	25	14	122	1219	192	15	136	6	4	6	204
KG			0	4	13	6	76	590	41	1	36	1	6	5	56
1				1	11	17	6	89	15	1	4	1	0	2	10
2					0	10	9	26	2	0	0	0	2	2	7
3						0	6	114	8	2	4	0	0	0	10
4							0	35	23	0	7	0	0	4	11
5								2	111	1	68	1	5	5	24
6									18	12	1260	8	10	39	236
7										5	184	10	6	20	104
8											10	7	4	18	36
9												26	22	29	1439
10													17	11	43
11														7	24
12															20

Campus Comparison Groups: Demographic Characteristics

Demographic characteristics used to construct campus comparison groups include those defined in state statute and others that are statistically relevant to performance:

- Grade levels served—lowest grade level and highest grade level enrollment (based on TSDS PEIMS Fall Submission students in membership)
- Campus type—elementary, middle, high school, or combined elementary/secondary (based on grade levels served with students on TSDS PEIMS Fall Submission students in membership)
- Grade levels served—lowest grade level and highest grade level enrollment (based on TSDS PEIMS Fall Submission students in membership)
- Campus size—total student enrollment (based on TSDS PEIMS Fall Submission students in membership)
- Percentage of students identified as economically disadvantaged (based on TSDS PEIMS Fall Submission students in membership)
- Percentage of students identified as emergent bilingual students (based on TSDS PEIMS Fall Submission students in membership)
- Percentage of students identified as mobile (based on TSDS PEIMS prior year attendance)
- Percentage of students served by special education (based on TSDS PEIMS Fall Submission students in membership)
- Percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program (based on TSDS PEIMS Fall Submission students in membership)

Methodology

A unique comparison group is created for each campus by applying the following methodology:

Step 1: Group all eligible campuses (see below) by campus type: elementary, middle, high, or elementary/secondary.

Step 2: Determine the linear values for each of the demographic characteristics used to construct the campus comparison group.

Step 3: Compute the linear distance (the square root of the sum of the squared differences of the campus demographic characteristics) from the target campus.

Step 4: Select the 40 campuses with the smallest distance value from the target campus.

Eligible Campuses

Campus comparison groups are created for all campuses with the following exceptions:

- Campuses evaluated under alternative education accountability provisions are not eligible for distinction designations and, therefore, are not assigned a campus comparison group.
- Campuses that are not rated are ineligible for distinction designations and, therefore, are not assigned a campus comparison group. There are several reasons a campus is not rated, such as the campus has no data in the accountability subset, or less than 10 students in membership, insufficient data or it is a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, Disciplinary Alternative Education Program, Adult Education Charter or a residential treatment facility.

Uniform Linear Values

Campus comparison groups are determined by a distance formula that requires a consistent range of linear (or continuous) values for each demographic characteristic. The percentage of economically disadvantaged students, percentage of emergent bilingual students percentage of students who are mobile, percentage of students served by special education, and percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program are considered linear values within the consistent range of zero to 100. The remaining demographic values are transformed into linear values within the same range in the following ways:

- Campus size—a value is created based on the "target" campus's size as a percentage of the maximum statewide campus size by campus type.
- Lowest or highest grade span—a value is created based on the "target" campus's grade span as a percentage of a constant value. This calculation creates uniform grade percentages for each grade level by shifting the range of grade levels from 3 to 12 to values of 0 to 9 and dividing the values into 9 increments:
    - For grade levels 3 and above:
      High value = 100 * (highest grade level – 3) / 9
      Low value = 100 * (lowest grade level – 3) / 9
    - For grade levels EE, PK, KG, 01, 02 (TSDS PEIMS-reported values), the high and low percentage values are set to 0.

In cases where the campus has a missing mobility value, the district's average mobility is used as a proxy. This will happen for campuses in their first year of operation because mobility is based on prior-year data.

Other Information

- Campus comparison groups are recreated each year to account for potential changes in demographics that may occur.
- The number of times a campus appears as a member of other groups will vary.

Comparison Group Methodology for Computing the Linear Distance Among Campuses

Linear Distance =

$$\sqrt{(\text{sizeA} - \text{sizeB})^2 + (\text{econA} - \text{econB})^2 + (\text{elA} - \text{elB})^2 + (\text{mobileA} - \text{mobileB})^2 + (\text{spedA} - \text{spedB})^2 + (\text{echsA} - \text{echsB})^2 + (\text{lowA} - \text{lowB})^2 + (\text{highA} - \text{highB})^2}$$

Where:

$size_A$ = 100 * (campus size for campus A / maximum campus size statewide by campus type*)

$size_B$ = 100 * (campus size for campus B / maximum campus size statewide by campus type*)

$econ_A$ = percentage of TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment that is economically disadvantaged for campus A

$econ_B$ = percentage of TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment that is economically disadvantaged for campus B

el_A = percentage of TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment that is identified as emergent bilingual students/ELs for campus A

el_B = percentage of TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment that is identified as emergent bilingual students/ELs for campus B

$mobile_A$ = percentage of students who are mobile based on prior year attendance for campus A

$mobile_B$ = percentage of students who are mobile based on prior year attendance for campus B

$sped_A$ = percentage of students who are served by special education for campus A

$sped_B$ = percentage of students who are served by special education for campus B

$echs_A$ = percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program for campus A

$echs_B$ = percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program for campus B

low_A = 0, if campus A lowest grade is EE, PK, KG, 01, or 02; otherwise, 100 * (campus A lowest grade - 3) / 9

low_B = 0, if campus B lowest grade is EE, PK, KG, 01, or 02; otherwise, 100 * (campus B lowest grade - 3) / 9

$high_A$ = 0, if campus A highest grade is EE, PK, KG, 01, or 02; otherwise, 100 * (campus A highest grade - 3) / 9

$high_B$ = 0, if campus B highest grade is EE, PK, KG, 01, or 02; otherwise, 100 * (campus B highest grade - 3) / 9

* **Maximum campus sizes reported as an example for 2025:**
Elementary school = 11,683 Middle school = 2,888 High school = 5,206 Elementary/Secondary = 19,701

Elementary School Example

For campuses under consideration, the linear distance (the square root of the sum of the squared differences of the campus characteristics) from the target campus is computed.

Campus	Campus Size (Total Student Enrollment)	% Eco Dis	% EB	% Mobile	% SpEd	% ECHS	Low Grade	High Grade
(Target) Campus A	237	42.2	0.4	22.0	9.3	0	PK	05
Campus B	543	42.6	4.2	15.1	8.1	0	EE	05

Linear Distance[1] =

$$\sqrt{[((100 \times (237/3419)) - (100 \times (543/3419)))^2 + (42.2 - 42.6)^2 + (0.4 - 4.2)^2 + (22.0 - 15.1)^2 + (9.3 - 8.1)^2 + (0 - 0)^2 + (0 - 0)^2 + (((2/9) \times 100) - ((2/9) \times 100))^2]}$$

$$\sqrt{[(-9)^2 + (-0.4)^2 + (-3.8)^2 + (6.9)^2 + (1.2)^2 + (0)^2 + (0)^2 + (0)^2]}$$

$= \sqrt{144.65}$

= 12

After calculating the linear distance from the target campus, the 40 campuses with the least distance are included in the campus comparison group.

[1] In this sample calculation, the maximum campus size for elementary schools was 3,419. The applicable campus sizes reported for the current year are provided in the preceding section, Comparison Group Methodology for Computing the Linear Distance Among Campuses, of this appendix.