

Chapter 11—Local Accountability Systems

Overview

The Local Accountability System (LAS) allows districts and open-enrollment charter schools to develop local accountability system plans for their campuses. A district's local accountability plan provides stakeholders with detailed information about school performance and progress over time. Local accountability plans may vary by school type (elementary school, middle school, high school, and K–12) and by school group (magnet schools, early college high schools, etc.) but must apply equally to all applicable campuses by school type and group.

LAS Implementation

The implementation of a local accountability system is optional. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools that choose to participate must follow the procedures for implementation outlined in the applicable *Local Accountability System Technical Guide* found at <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/local-accountability-system>.

The LAS process includes a planning year during which districts and open-enrollment charter schools will work with Texas Education Agency (TEA) LAS staff to design and refine a LAS plan, including LAS domains, components, scaling methodologies, and metrics. The plan submission date is aligned with the timeline posted on the agency website.

Once the LAS plan is final, it is reviewed and either approved or denied by TEA. Plan approvals will be determined by the following:

If 1-9 plans are submitted, then a plan may be approved if:

- 1) the plan meets minimum requirements as determined by the agency; and
- 2) at the commissioner's discretion, an audit verifies the calculations included in the plan.

If ten or more plans are submitted, then a plan may be approved if:

- 1) the plan meets minimum requirements as determined by the agency; and
- 2) at the commissioner's discretion, an audit verifies the calculations included in the plan; and
- 3) a review panel approves the plan.

Ratings Under LAS

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools produce campus ratings for each LAS domain, which are used to calculate an overall LAS rating. These ratings consist of a scaled score and a corresponding letter grade. Upon implementation of a TEA approved LAS plan, participating districts submit LAS scaled scores and corresponding letter grades for the agency to combine with the state overall campus ratings.

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools must submit scaled scores and letter grades assigned for each domain, each component, and an overall grade for each LAS campus, as approved in the LAS plan. Eligible LAS campuses that receive a C or higher state overall rating have their LAS overall scaled score combined with their state overall scaled score. The LAS plan specifies the proportion the LAS rating contributes to the overall campus rating, which may be up to 50 percent.

TEA calculates overall ratings for LAS campuses by combining the LAS overall scaled score at the proportion determined by the district with the state accountability overall scaled score. The overall

scaled score and rating produced is displayed on the TXschools.gov and TEA websites along with the overall and domain scaled scores and ratings for both LAS and state accountability.

LAS Ratings

For the current year, districts with an approved plan must submit LAS data by the first week of July deadline in order to have LAS outcomes combined with current year state accountability data for eligible campuses. If these campuses receive a C or higher for state overall rating, combined ratings are published on public websites with the release of non-LAS public ratings, reflecting the combination of LAS and state ratings. For additional information on LAS submission requirements, please see Section 2 of the *Local Accountability System Technical Guide*.

LAS Appeals

LAS districts and open-enrollment charter schools that wish to appeal LAS campus ratings must follow the LAS appeals process, as stated in the *Local Accountability System Technical Guide*. The LAS appeal response letter from the commissioner serves as notification of the final campus rating. The commissioner's decisions are final and not subject to further appeal or negotiation.

LAS campuses that receive a state overall scaled score less than 70 may not apply LAS ratings. A district may choose to appeal the state overall accountability rating. If the appeal is granted, and the campus receives a final state overall rating of C or higher, the LAS overall rating will be applied to the state overall rating upon the resolution of the state appeal. The final campus overall rating will be updated at this time.

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools that wish to appeal both LAS and state accountability ratings for campuses must submit two appeals: a LAS appeal with supporting data and a state accountability appeal with supporting data. Section 5 of the *Local Accountability System Technical Guide* provides instructions for filing a LAS appeal. Please see Chapter 8 of this manual for filing instructions for a state accountability appeal.