

## Chapter 7—Other Accountability System Processes

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Most accountability ratings are determined through the process detailed in Chapters 1–5. Accommodating all districts and campuses in Texas increases the complexity of the accountability system but also ensures the fairness of the ratings assigned. This chapter describes other processes necessary to implement the accountability system.

### Pairing

All campuses serving prekindergarten (PK) through grade 12 must receive an accountability rating. Campuses that do not serve any grade level for which STAAR assessments are administered are paired with another campus in the same district for accountability purposes. A campus may pair with its district and be evaluated on the district's results.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) analyzes TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment data to determine which campuses need to be paired. Campuses that serve only grades not tested on the STAAR (i.e., PK, K, grade 1, or grade 2) are paired with either another campus in the district or the district itself.

Charter school campuses and alternative education campuses (AECs) registered for evaluation by alternative education accountability (AEA) provisions are not paired with another campus. Likewise, traditional campuses are not paired with AECs.

Paired data are not used for distinction designation indicators; therefore, paired campuses cannot earn distinction designations.

### Pairing Process

Districts may use the prior-year pairing relationship or select a new relationship by completing the pairing form on the TEA Login (TEAL) Accountability application. An email notification is sent to those districts who need to pair campuses with details on the process and the deadline to complete the pairing form. The final pairing decision will be made available to the district on the TEA Login (TEAL) Accountability application.

If a district fails to inform TEA of its pairing preference by the deadline, pairing decisions are made by TEA. For campuses that have been paired in the past, staff assumes that the prior year pairing relationships still apply. For campuses in need of pairing for the first time, pairing selections are based on the guidelines given in this section in conjunction with analysis of attendance and enrollment patterns using TSDS PEIMS data.

### Guidelines

Campuses that are paired should have a “feeder” relationship and should serve students in contiguous grades. For example, a kindergarten (K) through grade 2 campus should be paired with the campus that serves grade 3 in which its students will be enrolled following grade 2.

When a campus being asked to pair is a PK or K campus with a “feeder” relationship to a campus that also requires pairing (e.g., a grade 1–2 campus) both campuses should pair with the same campus that serves grade 3 in which their students will be enrolled following grade 2.

A campus may be paired with its district instead of with another campus. This option is suggested for cases in which the campus has no clear relationship with another campus in the district. A campus paired with its district is assigned the same rating as the district. Note that pairing with a district is not required; districts may select another campus for pairing.

Multiple pairings are possible. If several K–2 campuses feed the same 3–5 campus, all the K–2 campuses may pair with that 3–5 campus.

Districts may change pairings from year to year. Any changes should, however, be based on establishing the most appropriate pairing relationship. For example, a change in attendance zones that affects feeder patterns may cause a district to change pairing. A change in a pairing relationship does not change accountability ratings assigned in previous years to either campus.

## Non-Traditional Education Settings

Even though districts are responsible for the performance of all their students, statutory requirements affect the rating calculations for residential treatment facilities (RTF), Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP), and disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) campuses.

## Inclusion or Exclusion of Performance Data

The performance of students served in certain campuses cannot be used in evaluating the district where the campus is located. Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.055 requires that students ordered by a juvenile court into a residential program or facility operated by the TJJD, a juvenile board, or any other governmental entity or any student who is receiving treatment in a residential facility be excluded from the district and campus when determining the accountability ratings. Please see Appendix G.

## Student Attribution Codes

Districts with RTF or TJJD campuses are required to submit student attribution codes in TSDS PEIMS.

## JJAEPs and DAEPs

State statute and statutory intent prohibit the attribution of student performance results to JJAEPs and DAEPs. Each district that sends students to a JJAEP or DAEP is responsible for properly attributing all performance and attendance data to the home campuses according to the Texas Education Data Standards and testing guidelines.

## Special Education Campuses

Campuses where all students are served in special education programs and tested on STAAR (STAAR or STAAR Alternate 2) are rated on the performance of their students. There are no special provisions or alternative accountability allowable under ESSA for campuses based on the special education population, size, or type that are served by the campus or district.

## Specialized Programs or Campuses

The assessment; college, career, and military readiness; and graduation outcomes for students who attend specialized programs or campuses, such as, but not limited to magnets, P-TECHs, schools of choice, or academies must be attributed to the campus at which the student receives instruction. These outcomes may not be attributed to a student's campus of origin, if the student receives instruction at the campus that houses the specialized program. Campuses are rated on the performance of their students. Campuses that house multiple programs, such as a magnet program and a zoned attendance program, are rated on the performance of all students.

## AEA Provisions

Alternative performance measures for campuses serving at-risk students were first implemented in the 1995–96 school year. Over time, these measures expanded to include charter schools that served large populations of at-risk students. Accountability advisory groups consistently recommend evaluating AECs by separate AEA provisions due to the large number of students served in alternative education programs on AECs and to ensure these unique campus settings are appropriately evaluated for accountability.

AEA provisions apply to and are allowable under ESSA for

- campuses that offer nontraditional programs, rather than programs within a traditional campus;
- campuses that meet the at-risk enrollment criterion;
- campuses that meet the grades 6–12 enrollment criterion;
- open-enrollment charter schools that operate only AECs; and
- open-enrollment charter schools that meet the AEC enrollment criterion.

## AEA Campus Identification

AECs, including charter school AECs, must serve students at risk of dropping out of school as defined in TEC §29.081(d) and provide accelerated instructional services to these students. The performance results of students at registered AECs are included in the district's performance and used in determining the district's accountability rating.

In this manual, the terms *AEC* and *registered AEC* refer collectively to residential facilities and dropout recovery schools that are registered for evaluation by AEA provisions and meet the at-risk and grades 6–12 enrollment criteria.

Dropout recovery schools (DRS) are identified by two methods. First, AECs that meet the statutory DRS definition found in TEC §39.0548 are identified and preregistered for AEA. These campuses provide education services targeted to dropout prevention and recovery of students in grades 9–12, with enrollment consisting of at least 60 percent of the students 16 years of age or older as of September 1 of the current school year, as reported for the fall semester TSDS PEIMS submission. Campuses that meet the AEA criteria listed below, but do not meet the age criterion for DRS, may apply for DRS designation. Districts may submit an application and supporting documentation via TEAL Accountability presenting how the campus is providing dropout prevention and/or recovery services. If the agency approves the application, these campuses receive a discretionary DRS designation and are registered for AEA.

DAEPs, JJAEPs, and stand-alone Texas high school equivalency certificate (TxCHSE) programs are ineligible for evaluation by AEA provisions. Data for these campuses are attributed to the home campus.

## AEA Campus Registration Process

The AEA campus registration process is conducted online using the TEAL Accountability application. DRS designated for the prior school year AEA provisions are re-registered automatically for the current year, provided the campus continues to meet age, enrollment, and at-risk criteria as determined by TSDS PEIMS Fall Snapshot data. If a campus was registered in the prior year using the at-risk safeguard and does not meet the at-risk enrollment criterion in the current year, the campus is not eligible for AEA and is not re-registered for AEA in the current year.

Campuses that were not registered in the prior year but meet DRS eligibility in the current year are automatically registered for AEA by the agency. Districts may choose to remove a campus from evaluation under AEA procedures by submitting an AEA rescission form

Campuses that meet the following AEA campus registration criteria, but do not meet the statutory DRS age requirement, must submit a DRS application during the registration process to receive a discretionary DRS designation. For campuses that have received discretionary DRS designations in the prior year and continue to meet the AEA campus registration criteria, staff assumes the prior year designation still applies. If a campus does not submit a DRS application, or the DRS application is denied, the campus is not registered for AEA. The campus will be evaluated under standard accountability for the following year.

## **AEA Campus Registration Criteria**

Campuses must meet thirteen criteria to register for AEA. However, the requirements in criteria 8–13 may not apply to charter school campuses (depending on the terms of the charter) or for community-based dropout recovery campuses established in accordance with TEC §29.081(e).

- 1) The AEC must have its own county-district-campus number for which TSDS PEIMS data are submitted and assessments are coded. A program operated within or supported by another campus does not qualify.
- 2) The AEC must have its own county-district-campus number on TSDS PEIMS Fall Snapshot day.
- 3) The AEC must be identified in AskTED (Ask Texas Education Directory database) as an alternative instructional campus. This is a self-designation that districts and charter schools request via AskTED.
- 4) The AEC must be dedicated to serving students at risk of dropping out of school as defined in TEC §29.081(d). Each AEC must have at least 75 percent at-risk student enrollment at the AEC verified through current-year TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment data.
- 5) At least 90 percent of students at the AEC must be enrolled in grades 6–12 verified through current-year TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment data.
- 6) The AEC must operate on its own campus budget.
- 7) The AEC must offer nontraditional settings and methods of instructional delivery designed to meet the needs of the students served on the AEC.
- 8) The AEC cannot be the only middle school or high school listed for its district in AskTED.
- 9) The AEC must have an appropriately certified, full-time administrator whose primary duty is the administration of the AEC.
- 10) The AEC must have appropriately certified teachers assigned in all areas including special education, bilingual education, and/or English as a second language (ESL) to serve students eligible for such services.
- 11) The AEC must provide each student the opportunity to attend a 75,600-minute school year as defined in TEC §25.081(a), according to the needs of each student.
- 12) If the campus has students served by special education, the students must be placed at the AEC by their Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee. If the campus is a residential facility, the students must have been placed in the facility by the district.
- 13) Students served by special education must receive all services outlined in their current individualized education programs (IEPs). Emergent bilingual students (EB students) must receive all services outlined by the language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC). Students served by special education or language programs must be served by appropriately certified teachers.

## At-Risk Enrollment Criterion

Each registered AEC must have at least 75 percent at-risk student enrollment on the AEC as verified through current-year TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment data in order to be evaluated by AEA provisions. TEC

§29.081 defines fourteen criteria used to identify students as “at-risk of dropping out of school”. Districts and charter schools must identify students in TSDS PEIMS who meet one or more of the fourteen criteria. The at-risk enrollment criterion restricts use of AEA provisions to AECs that serve large populations of at-risk students and enhances at-risk data quality.

*Prior-Year Safeguard.* If a registered AEC does not meet the at-risk enrollment criterion in the current year, it remains registered for AEA if the AEC meets the at-risk enrollment criterion in the prior year. For example, an AEC with an at-risk enrollment below 75 percent in 2023 that had at least 75 percent in the prior year 2022, remains registered in 2023.

## Grades 6–12 Enrollment Criterion

In order to be evaluated by AEA provisions, each registered AEC must have at least 90 percent student enrollment in grades 6–12 based on total students enrolled (early education–grade 12) verified through current-year TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment data. The grades 6–12 enrollment criterion restricts use of AEA provisions to middle and high schools.

## Final AEA Campus List

The final list of AEA campuses is posted on the TEA website, at which time an email notification is sent to all superintendents. For the current year, all campuses on the final AEA list will be identified either as RTFs or DRSS. As district ratings are determined proportionally based on campus outcomes for the current year, AEA Charter School identifications are no longer assigned.

## AEA Modifications

Chapters 2 and 3 describe the provisions used to evaluate AEA campuses.