

2023 Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG)

Summary of Meeting on March 29, 2023

The objective of the March 29th TAAG meeting is to review the updates contained in the 2023 Preliminary Framework published in March, gather feedback on the framework, resources release timeline, the potential college, career, and military readiness (CCMR) alternative, communications resources, What If Ratings, and to review future topics for continuous improvement of the accountability system. TEA will respond to questions/comments that require a response in italics. Some questions may require additional staff research. The following is a summary of the meeting.

- Welcome
- March Framework Updates
- Closing the Gaps: Super Groups for Rating/CSI
 - Questions
 - How will the agency calculate the grade/rating used for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI)? *The Closing the Gaps scaled score used for CSI determinations will be based on the outcomes of the four groups (all students, the two lowest-performing racial/ethnic groups from the prior year, and high focus) using the 0–4 points. Targeted support and improvement (TSI) and additional targeted support (ATS) determinations will be based on the 12 disaggregated groups. As a reminder under ESSA, the only group required for CSI is the all students.*
 - When you modeled the cut points did you use the two lowest performing groups? *Yes, the modeling used the two lowest performing groups for each campus and applied the updated minimum size of ten.*
 - Closing the Gaps: “Mega” Table for Each Group
 - Questions
 - This will not be our accountability table, right? *Correct, the Closing the Gaps rating will have a data table reduced to reflect the outcomes used in the rating. The mega table is for planning and information purposes.*
 - Comments/ Concerns
 - I appreciate that Foster and Homeless will be included.
- Potential CCMR Alternative: [Update May 2023] the feedback on the CCMR alternative that was proposed in this meeting was brought to TEA Senior Leadership, and the decision was made not to pursue this change to the framework. -thank you!
 - Questions
 - How would you compute CCMR? *We would use the CCMR scaled score. Campuses would receive the better of the proposed calculation and cut points from March or this proposed alternative.*
 - Do we have modeled data? *If we remove all college prep courses, rates decrease by 3 to 4 percent. If we remove all sunseting IBCs, rates decrease again another 3 or 4 percent. We are in the exploratory stage.*

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- Who would this impact the most? Is the confusion added worth the cut point change? *We have not done that level of analysis yet. The decrease would be quite small. It would only impact campuses by 1 to 2 points.*
- What type of college prep courses are you talking about? The challenge is there is a wide variety of college prep courses. We need to figure out the quality of college prep courses. This would impact good and bad college prep courses. *We will be figuring this out in the future.*
- Does this include Texas College Bridge? *Yes.*
- Would this be a temporary thing or ongoing? *We do not know. It would likely be in place until we define what a high-quality college prep course is.*
- What is the problem we are trying to solve with this? *We must make sure our standards are shooting for excellence. Is the 88 percent A cut point too high because of the college prep courses and sunseting IBCs?*
- Comments/ Concerns
 - Our graduating seniors are COVID freshmen. Some of these students are having trouble meeting Texas Success Initiative (TSI). We are still recovering. College Bridge really took flight in 2021. I don't know if we have given College Bridge enough time. There is a stipend attached to teaching College Bridge, how does that reflect on that work?
 - Let's start with incoming cohorts.
 - If the scaling is the issue, can we look at a weighted average? Eighty-eight percent for an A is attainable for tiny schools or early college high schools. Is there an opportunity to scale based off type of schools?
 - If what we are supposed to be doing is getting kids ready for college and the colleges are accepting what we are sending to them, can we shift the responsibility on the college?
 - Our issue is the timing and the backward applying to the class, our goal is 90 percent and above – this does increase the complexity of the system.
 - It doesn't solve the real problem. District weren't shooting for 60 percent and stopping. The problem is that it is applying to the Class of 2022 and now the Class of 2023 is almost graduated. Give us a runway to get to the higher targets without having two of the five classes this would apply to already out of the door.
 - If we were to go down this path, we would expect these two methods to converge. We would eventually get to one metric. This would be a temporary fix.
 - The message is for staying consistent for five-years, but CCMR has not stayed consistent. It has changed every two years or more.
 - Each cohort of 9th graders should have a set standard.
 - In the interest of fairness, there are many high schools that have no chance of getting an A.
 - The problem with the proposed alternative is that it is not a fix for what we are trying to address.

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- Another thing is that we are making an already complex system even more complex. This would be difficult for us to communicate how we get to the final score.
- ASVAB performance has been low. Military branches have quietly lowered their entrance score requirements; example: 34 dropped to 10.
- What If Ratings and Communications Resources
 - Questions
 - Instead of looking back, has there been any consideration looking forward to what the 2023 ratings would have been under the old system? *We will consider it.*
 - Could TEA provide us with graphics about the change? *Yes.*
 - Are we still communicating the STAAR progress measure? *There will not be a STAAR progress measure for 2022, but there will be in the future. We are setting standards this year.*
 - Could there be media releases from TEA to explain these changes and what to expect? *Yes, we will work with our communications department for press releases.*
 - Comments/Concerns
 - We need time to really digest the data and plan our local communications to our stakeholders.
 - I would prefer What If ratings were shown for all campus types and include side-by-side comparisons.
 - I think that there is going to be a perception that this is new information and new data.
 - I like the idea of using a football analogy with fields and goal posts.
 - Potential messaging: We have increased the rigor of the system. This is how we performed under both systems. 2022 growth was unusual. This is a new system and this differs in these ways from the old system design. Having both data sets side-by-side you can have a better opportunity to show growth.
- Future Topics and or Resource Recommendations
 - Comments/Concerns
 - Requests were made for slide presentation for boards and communities and media releases as a lot of parents listen to the news stations.
 - We would like the framework to be released a year ahead of time.
 - Last year's IBCs are no longer in our control, and this year's seniors are almost outside of our control. We need to make sure we align our timeframes with IBC changes.
 - There needs to be close collaboration with Assessment so that we are changing tests as the same time we are changing accountability.