
TAAG Meeting Minutes

Date: December 9, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

2024 Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG) Minutes

Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2024

The primary objective of the December 2024 TAAG meeting was to discuss the 2025 and 2026 accountability rules adoption, review data tools and resources, and share updates about college prep course review and approval and the new military enlistment data source. Additionally, members were asked to review proposed targets for Progress in English Language Proficiency (ELP) for 2026.

Topic 1 – Welcome, Introduction, and Review of TAAG Charter and Procedures

Summary:

The TAAG Charter link was shared for reference, and its importance was emphasized. Members are expected to identify system improvements and consider the impact on the entire state of Texas. Feedback will be collected both during and between meetings. Membership term limits are three to five years, with attendance requirements and procedures for filling vacancies outlined.

Discussion:

Members were encouraged to read the charter thoroughly. The charter is posted on the 2024 accountability development page, with a 2025 page to be launched soon. Emphasis was placed on the importance of diverse perspectives and stakeholder engagement. Members were reminded of the need for a quorum (at least 12 members) and the process for handling vacancies and absences. New members were welcomed and all members shared contributions they hope to make during today's and future TAAG meetings.

Breakout Room Discussions

Summary:

Members discussed their strengths and questions about the TAAG Charter, highlighting the diverse strengths of members. Discussion focused on the group's unique position to have technical conversations and discuss potential methods for future accountability refreshes.

Topic 2 – 2024 Accountability Summary, Data, and Tools

Summary:

TEA reviewed that while ratings for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years remain pending and are subject to change based on judicial rulings, data from these years are still available for decision-making. Various data tools and resources were highlighted, including the Texas Performance Reporting System (TPRS) and Analytic Tools. Emphasis was placed on the importance

of using available data for decision-making despite the lack of official ratings. Members reviewed and discussed the data tools. Suggestions were made for improving the granularity and usability of these tools.

Breakout Room Discussions

Summary:

Links to various data tools were shared, and members were encouraged to explore these resources.

Discussion:

Group Feedback: Members appreciated the analytic tools and suggested additional features, such as more detailed disaggregation by grade level and subject. It was also proposed to add distinction designation campus groups, as well. One TAAG member additionally highlighted that without an update to TXschools.gov due to the lawsuits, it has been more difficult to navigate competing systems of data and the timeline on which they are updated.

TEA Response: TEA will be holding focus groups and survey-based opportunities to gather more insight into district and campus accountability data needs, and how the tools support these efforts.

Topic 3– 2025 and 2026 Accountability Rules Adoption

Summary:

TEA reviewed that the design of the *A-F* accountability system includes a requirement to conduct periodic review and updates, with a design commitment to maintain consistency and limit any changes to cut points and underlying calculation methodology in between refresh years. The 2024 rules will be re-adopted for 2025 with no changes. The public comment period will open January 2025. The 2026 rules will be adopted before the start of the school year, with a public comment period in April 2025.

Discussion:

Group Feedback: Members expressed appreciation for the agency’s move to an early adoption and clear communication of rules. One TAAG member raised the potential for other TEA departments’ changes to impact accountability after rules are adopted. It was noted that two adopted manuals at the same time will require specificity and clarity.

TEA Response: Clarification was provided on the timeline for adopting and implementing rules: This will be the only year in which two manual adoption timelines will overlap. In the future, the adoption timeline will more closely mirror the dates reflected under “Adoption of rules for 2026 ratings”.

Topic 4 – Proposed *A-F* System Manual for 2025 and 2026 Ratings

Summary:

The only proposed edits to the Accountability Manual for 2025 are edits for clarity.

The only proposed change to the Accountability Manual for 2026 are new composite-based targets for the Progress in English Language Proficiency (ELP) component of the Closing the Gaps domain.

The agency also shared a change in data source for 2026 accountability, to the use of Department of Defense data for military enlistment. The 2026 rules are being proposed for adoption before the start of the 2025-2026 school year to provide advanced notice.

IBCs and Aligned Programs of Study

Summary:

The previously adopted phase-in timeline for IBCs and Aligned Programs of Study was reviewed. Requirements for current 12th graders (expected graduates of SY 2024-2025) were clarified. The data sources of the 2025 and 2026 requirements were provided.

Discussion:

Group's Feedback: More time to discuss the IBC lists and Programs of Study was requested.

TEA Response: A meeting will be held for TAAG members to get answers to programmatic questions regarding IBCs and Programs of Study.

College Preparatory Course Requirements

Summary:

The previously adopted phase-in timeline for the 12th grade requirement for College Preparatory courses was reviewed. Requirements for current 11th graders (expected graduates of SY 2025-2026) were clarified. The class of 2026 will be the first to complete only approved college prep courses and only in their 12th grade year.

The newly released approval process for college prep courses was discussed [[College Preparatory Courses for Accountability Process](#)]. The approval window is open until January 31, 2025.

Discussion:

Group Feedback: One member raised a question about the process of approval for courses offered by an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) for students across multiple districts (such as, College Bridge). Members provided feedback regarding the data sources of the 2025 and 2026 requirements, including the source of the student's grade level. Additionally, members raised questions about the transferability of courses between institutions.

TEA Response: TEA clarified that it is the vendor/IHE's responsibility to apply for the college prep course approval (not a district's), and that the approval can be applicable to students across multiple districts. TEA clarified that articulation agreements between institutions would be monitored and encouraged. The agency values the feedback received and will continue to consider feedback additionally collected during the public comment period.

Military Enlistment Data

Summary:

For 2025, the DD Form 4 will continue to be used. For 2026, data from the Department of Defense will be used. Campuses can still provide DD Form 4s during the CCMR Verifier window.

Discussion:

Group Feedback: Members expressed appreciation for the agreement with the Department of Defense. Questions regarding the continued collection of DD Form 4s for future graduating classes were posed.

TEA Response: The suggestion was made to maintain a collection of DD Form 4s during the transition to using Department of Defense data, but it is not required.

ELP Targets for 2026**Summary:**

The shift from domain-based to composite-based targets for English Language Proficiency (ELP) was discussed. Proposed targets were shared, with implementation set for 2026, allowing for early notice and transition. The impact of the change on schools was discussed, with most schools expected to perform the same or better under the new methodology. Members were provided with data behind the change and the methodology for setting ELP targets.

Discussion:

Group Feedback: One member raised a question about the target setting, noting the presentation stated it was "done the same way" as for domain-based targets, which they interpreted as using data from the same years. They asked if this assumption was accurate and, if not, which years were used.

TEA Response: TEA clarified that the state average is used to set the interim target, and each subsequent interim target increases by 2 percentage points. This same process was used to set interim targets and long-term targets for all Domain III indicators. The data used to set the domain targets was from 2021 to 2022, while the data used to establish the proposed composite targets was based on 2023 to 2024 data.

Clarity Edits and Appeals Timelines**Summary:**

Additional edits to the Accountability Manual have been made to support educators and reflect stakeholder needs. TEA proposed an amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 97.1002 to clarify the accountability appeals process, with calendar dates for appeals announced with the TEA Login (TEAL) release of preliminary accountability ratings. This amendment supersedes the timelines in Chapter 8 of the 2023 and 2024 Accountability Manuals and applies to all Accountability Rating Appeals from 2023 onward. Members were informed about the additional rule-making process for appeals timelines.

Discussion:

Group Feedback: No questions asked at this time.

Topic 5 - Upcoming TAAG Topics and Meeting Closure

- Upcoming TAAG meetings will focus on the 2028 A-F System Refresh considerations, data analyses to-date, and Results Driven Accountability (RDA) task force updates.

Action Items:

- TAAG Members to review the TAAG minutes and provide feedback.
 - Committee materials and minutes to be publicly posted. TAAG membership list to be publicly posted.
 - TEA to consider suggestions for improving data tools.
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