

2023 Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG)

Summary of September on September 19, 2023

The objective of the September 19th TAAG meeting was to share the recent TAA announcement, recall previous conversations about the A—F refresh, review 2023 growth data, and gather TAAG feedback on potential changes to 2023 Domain 2A (Academic Growth) and Domain 3 (Closing the Gaps) cut points and D3 targets. TEA will respond in italics to questions/comments that require a response. Some questions may require additional staff research. The following is a summary of the meeting.

- Welcome
- TAA: Delay in 2023 A—F Academic Accountability Ratings
 - Delay of final ratings
 - Shifting the overall timeline of manual publication
 - No other changes to the proposed Final Manual other than 4 previously discussed with TAAG
 - Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) STAAR Methodology
 - Minimum indicators for Student Achievement Domain Score: STAAR
 - English Language Proficiency
 - Identification of School Improvement
 - Updating cut points and targets is part of the A—F refresh.
 - Considering the impact of COVID-19 and STAAR redesign when determining baselines (average of 2019 and 2022 used for D2A)
 - Revisiting the whole picture now that 2023 STAAR Scores Released in August
- Data Analysis: Applying the 2023 methodology to 2022 and 2019 shows that 2022 growth is more anomalous than expected for EL & MS.
 - Questions
 - Is the pattern consistent between reading and math? *The pattern of a clearly anomalous 2022 year of high growth holds in RLA and Math for Elementary and RLA for Middle school. High school holds as generally flat in both subjects.*
 - Comments/ Concerns
 - No concerns
- Additional analyses to check on the potential impact of STAAR redesign. Did the addition of writing to the Reading Language Arts (RLA) STAAR result in lower RLA growth in 2023? Additional analyses suggest that the RLA design did not lead to lower growth. When compared to 2019 growth, RLA growth is higher than math in a large majority of grades. The evidence does not suggest that the RLA redesign led to lower growth in 2023.
 - Questions
 - No questions
 - Comments/ Concerns
 - No comments
- Data Analysis of Domain 2A: Consideration of keeping the methodology used for determining cut points as it is published in the preliminary manual (the average of 2022

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and 2019) or only using 2019 data for the baseline. This is inclusive of Elementary, Middle, and High & K-12. Performance Reporting is looking for additional feedback.

- Questions
 - No questions
- Comments/ Concerns
 - Districts agree that revisiting growth is necessary based on their campus projections.
 - Conversations with parents have been difficult when discussing student growth. Also, the new 3 Ds rule has become a hard conversation.
 - In 2022 data appears unusual. Especially at the EL and Middle schools. Using only 2019 does make sense. The distribution of scores does make sense looking at prior years.
- Potential Domain 3 Academic Growth target adjustments. Elementary, Middle, and High/K-12 Targets for growth in Domain 3. Using 2019 as the baseline data for targets will generally result in a lower target, but in some cases, middle school and high school targets increase for Math. Should we use the lower of 2019 and 2022? Or should we use an average?
 - Questions
 - To get 1 point or 2 points you compare your growth to previous years. I was expecting a What If for growth, or you really cannot compare this year to last year. *When we are comparing “current year” growth to “prior year” growth to earn 1 or 2 points in Closing the Gaps, it is the re-calculated What If growth, applying the 2023 (transition table and accelerated learning) methodology.*
 - Can you revisit the What if tables that we received? These tables were not granulated by sub-population. *The What ifs will be updated to reflect the final methodology after the manual is published and provided to districts in TEAL. We will explore adding sub-population what-if data for Domain 3.*
 - Comments/Concerns
 - If you use 2019, use it across the board.
- Change in methodology, Potential Domain 3 cut point adjustments.
 - Questions
 - We gave additional points to accelerated targets, can we then give additional points to people who are reaching long-term targets? If this is our target, it should be full credit, not partial credit. *One thing we were trying to do was ensure that scaling did not accumulate to over 100 points. We did not want to scale down. We could change the calculation or formula, but campuses would have the same rating.*
 - It is perceived that to earn full credit long-term targets must be reached, which is problematic. *Long-term targets do not need to be reached in order to get an A. It is possible to earn 3 of 4 points by reaching the interim target, and because of cut point scaling, to earn an A in Closing the Gaps. This is why cut scores are much lower for Domain 3 than they*

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were in 2018-2022 methodology (e.g., an elementary school used to need a 95 to get an A, now it would need a 65 to get an A). We will explore creating a resource to help explain how reaching interim-targets (earning 3 points) impacts raw scores and are scaled for A-F ratings.

- Comments/Concerns
 - The commissioner has stated that the system was designed for everyone to get an A.
 - There will be critics later that say yes you did well but look at how low the cut scores are this year. We need TEA to come out and communicate about the cut scores.
- Conclusions and consensus that we should be using 2019 as the baseline for targets, and Domain 3 Cut Points. Stick to 2019 despite some targets will be slightly higher.
 - Questions
 - Clarification on rulemaking timeline? *Yes, we must finalize and go through various channels, not just TEA.*
 - Comments/Concerns
 - Can TEA post a scaling table ahead of time? *We will explore posting the scaling tables prior to the final manual.*
- Future Topics and or Resource Recommendations
 - Comments/Concerns
 - **Resource: One pager for people to understand Domain 3 Closing the Gaps, points explanation.**
 - *Finalize calculations and adjustments to Domain 2A cut points and Domain 3 targets and cut points.*
 - *Make updates to the final manual.*
 - *Submit the final manual to rulemaking.*
 - *2023 A—F release dates are announced at least 2 weeks ahead of public release.*