

2018 Accountability Overview

2018 ratings are based on a brand new state accountability system mandated by House Bill 22. Districts receive a numeric score and letter grade (A-F) and campuses receive a numeric score and a rating of Met Standard, Met Alternative Standard, or Improvement Required for overall performance and performance in each of four areas: Student Achievement, School Progress Part A–Student Growth, School Progress Part B–Relative Performance, and Closing the Gaps. Starting in 2019, grades of A-F will be assigned to campuses and districts.

Accountability scores and ratings are intended to show how well schools are doing at helping student reach grade level and preparing them for success after high school. Much like the grades given to students, accountability scores are used to identify ways to help schools improve over time.

The Student Achievement domain shows how much students know and can do by the end of the school year in STAAR tested subjects. This component is based on how many students are approaching, meeting, and mastering grade level expectations on STAAR. Students who meet grade level expectations on the STAAR are well prepared for eventual success in college and career programs. For high schools and districts, grades in this domain are also based on how many graduates are ready for college, a career, or the military.

The School Progress domain is composed of two parts. Part A–Student Growth measures how many students show a full year of academic growth in reading and math on STAAR. The expectation is for every student to gain a year’s worth of academic knowledge in reading and math each year they are in school. Part B–Relative Performance is based on a comparison of how well students are doing compared to similar schools.

Even in schools where many students perform well, performance gaps can exist among different groups of students. The Closing the Gaps domain ensures attention is given to each and every student. While grades in the other domains are based on all students together, this domain looks at groups of students separately. Groups include students of the same race, income level or special education status. Higher grades are awarded if all groups of students are doing well in terms of academic growth, student achievement, and, at the high school level, college and career readiness.

In determining the overall rating of a campus or district, the highest score is taken of the Student Achievement and School Progress domains. This score is factored in at seventy percent, and the Closing the gaps domain score contributes the remaining thirty percent. The weighted scores are then added together for an overall score for the campus. Numeric scores are intended to be representative of a typical grading scale. For districts, 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, and 59 and below = F. For campuses, grades of 60 and above result in a Met Standard rating while grades of 59 and below are Improvement Required.

House Bill (HB) also established Local Accountability Systems (LAS) which allow districts to develop plans to locally evaluate their campuses. Once a plan receives approval from the agency, districts may use locally developed domains and indicators together with the three state-mandated domains to assign overall A–F ratings for each campus.

The integration of Local Accountability Systems will come in stages. AISD is participating with TEA and 20 other districts in a small-scale pilot program for the 2017–18 academic year. This pilot program will inform the full roll out of the local accountability system option for the 2018–19 academic year.