

Austin Independent School District

Criteria for House Bill 5: Evaluation of Performance in Community and Student Engagement (CASE)



Overview

What is House Bill 5?

House Bill 5 (HB 5) of the 83rd Texas Legislature Regular Session added Section 39.0545 to the Texas Education Code (TEC). TEC § 39.0545 requires that each school district assign ratings of exemplary, recognized, acceptable, or unacceptable for the district and for each campus on both overall performance and each of nine factors.

On which nine factors will the district and campuses be evaluated?

The following factors are evaluated and a rating is assigned to each factor. An overall rating for the district and each campus is also assigned.

1. Fine arts
 2. Wellness and physical education
 3. Community and parental involvement
 4. The 21st Century Workforce Development program
 5. The second language acquisition program
 6. The digital learning environment
 7. Dropout prevention strategies
 8. Educational programs for gifted and talented students
 9. The record of the district and each campus regarding compliance with statutory reporting requirements
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When will this take effect?

This law took effect in the 2013-2014 school year. Ratings must be reported to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) by August 8th of each year.

What are the rating labels for each factor?

Rating labels for Factors 1 through 8 and for the overall campus/district rating are: Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable, Unacceptable or Not Applicable. A rating label of Yes or No is assigned for Factor 9, compliance with statutory reporting requirements.

Who will determine the rating criteria and indicators?

Statute does not permit TEA to determine the criteria for these evaluations; criteria were to be developed by a local committee. The AISD District Advisory Council (DAC) was identified as the local committee.

A DAC subcommittee met six times between October 2013 and February 2014 to discuss the HB 5 requirement and come up with a proposed framework. On February 18, 2014, the AISD District Advisory Council voted to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee.

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What did the DAC propose?

The DAC subcommittee made up of parents, volunteers, principals, staff, and teachers recommended that for each of the nine factors described in HB 5, AISD develop a list of approximately 10 indicators that describe high performance.

Schools can meet the requirements of an indicator in one of two ways: by achieving a certain standard or by making improvement over prior year performance. The number of indicators achieved determines the rating on each factor. Indicators vary by level (ES, MS, and HS).

The proposed framework is similar to the methodology used by TEA to award Academic Achievement Distinction Designations (AADD), where campuses must achieve a certain target on a percentage of available indicators.

What advice was given about the types of indicators to select?

TEA gave no guidance on which indicators to select. Region 13 advised to “keep it simple.” Senator Aycock, one of the authors of HB 5, suggested that this requirement is a way for districts to point out what is going well at their schools in areas not covered by standardized tests.

Campus & District Accountability staff developed the initial list of proposed indicators with input from the DAC subcommittee and subject area experts and by incorporating suggestions from toolkits developed by the Texas Association of School Administrators, the Texas PTA, and the Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Proposed indicators are all measurable, either through existing performance data, survey results, or evidence collected at the school. Data is pulled to evaluate performance when available, but some indicators rely on Campus documentation.

What input was elicited from principals?

On December 11, 2013, all principals were asked to provide input on the proposed indicators at a two hour work session. Each vertical team reviewed and revised the proposed indicators and provided suggestions for new indicators for each factor.

The goal of these work sessions was to create a menu of indicators that was broad enough to provide opportunities for all schools to highlight areas of exceptional performance.

The DAC subcommittee supported using the feedback from principals to update the list of indicators. Staff from Campus & District Accountability reviewed all principal input and compiled the revised draft of indicators.

What are the next steps?

The DAC subcommittee reviewed the recommendations and presented the proposed list of indicators to the full DAC, Senior Cabinet, Principals, and Campus Advisory Councils in February of 2014. Feedback from these groups was reviewed, and the plan was taken to the Board of Trustees on April 7, 2014.

The 2013-14 school year served as a baseline year for this process. In January 2015, the DAC re-evaluated the process and recommended that the framework used in 2013-14 remain in place for 2014-15. Ratings for each AISD campus, as well as an overall district rating, will be released on the AISD website on or before August 8th of each year.
