

Chapter 11—Local Accountability Systems

Overview

House Bill (HB) 22 (85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017) established the Local Accountability System (LAS) to allow districts and open-enrollment charter schools to develop local accountability system plans for their campuses. A district's local accountability plan provides stakeholders with detailed information about school performance and progress over time. Local accountability plans may vary by school type (elementary school, middle school, high school, and K–12) and by school group (magnet schools, early college high schools, etc.) but must apply equally to all campuses by school type and group.

LAS Implementation

The implementation of a local accountability system is optional. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools that choose to participate must follow the procedures for implementation outlined in the *2020 Local Accountability System Guide*.

The LAS process includes a planning and implementation year during which districts and open-enrollment charter schools will work with TEA LAS staff to design and refine a LAS plan. LAS domains, components, scaling methodologies, and metrics are established during the implementation year. Once the LAS plan is final, it is reviewed and approved or denied by TEA staff.

Ratings Under LAS

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools produce campus ratings for each LAS domain, which are used to calculate an overall LAS rating. These ratings consist of a scaled score and a corresponding letter grade. Upon completion of the planning year, participating districts submit actual LAS scaled scores and corresponding letter grades for the agency to combine with the state overall campus ratings. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools must submit scaled scores and letter grades assigned for each domain, each component, and an overall grade for each LAS campus, as approved in the LAS plan. LAS campuses that receive a C or higher state overall rating have their LAS overall scaled score combined with their state overall scaled score. The LAS plan specifies the proportion the LAS rating contributes to the overall campus rating, which may be up to 50 percent.

TEA calculates overall ratings for LAS campuses by combining the LAS overall scaled score at the proportion determined by the district with the state accountability overall scaled score. The overall scaled score and rating produced is displayed on the txschools.gov and TEA websites along with the overall and domain scaled scores and ratings for both LAS and state accountability.

2020 LAS Ratings

For 2020, campuses with an approved local accountability plan must submit LAS campus data in the summer of 2020, to have LAS outcomes combined with 2020 state campus ratings. If LAS campuses receive a C or higher state overall rating, overall scaled scores and ratings are published in TEAL Accountability and on the public websites on August 14, 2020, reflecting the combined LAS and state ratings. For additional information on LAS submission requirements, please see the *2020 Local Accountability System Guide*.

LAS Appeals

LAS districts and open-enrollment charter schools that wish to appeal LAS campus ratings must follow the LAS appeals process in the *2020 Local Accountability System Guide*. The LAS appeal response letter from the commissioner serves as notification of the final campus rating. The commissioner’s decisions are final and not subject to further appeal or negotiation.

LAS campuses that receive a *D* or *F* state overall accountability rating may not combine state and LAS ratings. A district may choose to appeal the state overall accountability rating. If the appeal is granted, and the campus receives a final state overall rating of *C* or higher, the LAS overall rating will be combined with the state overall rating upon the resolution of the appeal. The final campus overall rating is updated at this time.

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools that wish to appeal both LAS and state accountability ratings for campuses must submit two appeals: a LAS appeal with supporting data and a state accountability appeal with supporting data. Chapter 3 of the *2020 Local Accountability System Guide* provides instructions for filing a LAS appeal. Please see Chapter 8 of this manual for filing instructions for a state accountability appeal.