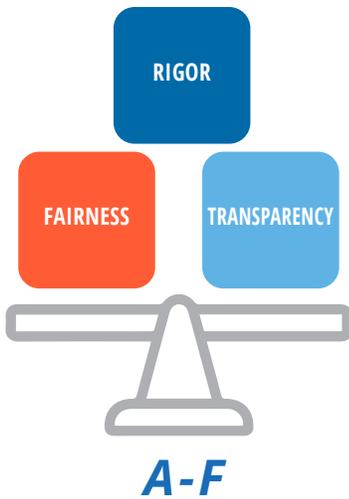# Texas A–F Accountability

A-F Refresh

In Fall 2023, Texas will complete the refresh of the A–F academic accountability ratings system that measures the performance of public school systems, including traditional ISDs and charters, along with individual campuses.

RIGOR

FAIRNESS   TRANSPARENCY

A-F

RIGOR for students

39.053 (f) "eliminating achievement gaps... and to ensure this state is a national leader in preparing students for postsecondary success"

TRANSPARENCY for the public

39.309 "website.. for the public to access school district and campus accountability information"

FAIRNESS for schools

39.054 (b) "The mathematical possibility that all districts and campuses receive an A rating"

State law requires updates to standards to continuously improve student performance and ensure Texas is a national leader in preparing students for postsecondary success.

A-F is Important for Texas Students

The A–F system was established by House Bill (HB) 22 in 2017 for the purpose of continuously improving student performance toward the goals of eliminating achievement gaps based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status and ensuring the state is a national leader in preparing students for postsecondary success.

RATINGS MATTER: *You can't improve what you can't see*. A–F ratings provide parents, community members, and business leaders a window into how well a school is preparing students for the next grade level and success after high school. The refreshed *A–F* system will make adjustments to better reflect the three objectives of the system: rigor for students, fairness for districts and campuses, and transparency for parents and the public.

WHY MAKE CHANGES NOW: After five years of the same criteria and a global pandemic, it is necessary to *refresh the A–F system* **to ensure Texas remains a national leader in preparing students for success after graduation.**

HOW THE CHANGES ARE BEING DEVELOPED: *TEA has engaged and sought input from thousands of interested individual Texans* including parents, teachers, superintendents, school board members, legislative staff, community advocates, and business leaders, to inform the refresh and to understand how changes will affect school systems and better reflect growth for students.

2023 Ratings Will Be Different Prior to 2017, accountability standards and cut points were raised each year. A–F maintained the same criteria which enabled apples-to-apples comparisons by updating the system less frequently. In the fall, TEA will release A-F accountability ratings and alongside the new 2023 ratings, will publicly release the 2022 "What If" ratings for easier comparisons to support continuous improvement plans moving forward.

How we communicate results to the community

➥ **TXschools.gov**

How Assessment & Accountability Work Together

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

In order for students to be prepared for success after graduation, they must develop an increasingly complex set of knowledge and skills as they progress through school. In Texas, these are defined as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and are approved by the State Board of Education. The State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is designed to help parents, teachers and administrators know what knowledge and skill students have mastered and where they still have gaps.
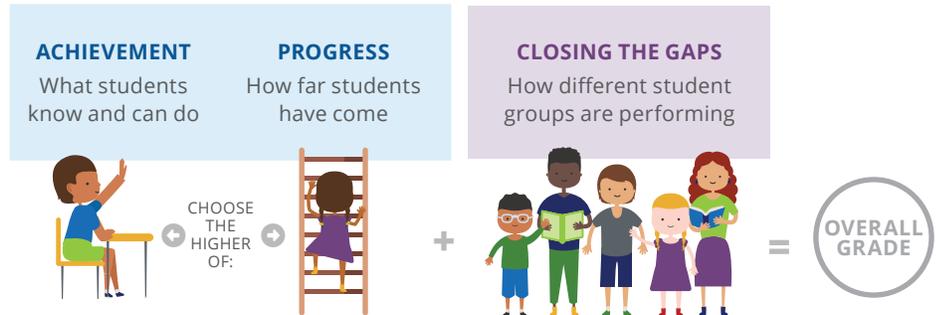
> **The TEKS include highly specific building blocks of knowledge and skills for each grade and subject.**

EXPECTATIONS FOR DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS

School districts and campuses receive an annual performance rating from the Texas Education Agency, designed to take into account a variety of measures. Together, these measures give a broad picture of a school's or district's overall performance in helping students achieve academically.

How the *A-F* System works

ACHIEVEMENT
What students know and can do

PROGRESS
How far students have come

CHOOSE THE HIGHER OF:

CLOSING THE GAPS
How different student groups are performing

+

=

OVERALL GRADE

➡ **70%** of the grade comes from either their students' achievement within a single year, or their progress / student performance relative to schools with similar economic demographics.

➡ **30%** of the grade is based on their ability to close the gaps for students most in need.

HOW THE RATINGS WORK: *A–F Ratings are based on multiple, valid, objective measures of student achievement*, including state assessments; graduation rates; and college, career, and military readiness (CCMR) outcomes. Ratings are based on defined criteria, not a fixed distribution. The system provides fairness so that every school system and campus can earn an A [39.054 (b) "The mathematical possibility that all districts and campuses receive an A rating"]. In the A-F Refresh, ratings will continue to be fair for school systems allowing for schools to be graded on student achievement or student progress, whichever provides the higher grade.

A-F Refresh

In 2017, the Legislature established the A–F system.

In 2023, A-F Refresh to ensure Texas remains a national leader in preparing students for success after graduation.

How we communicate results to the community
➡ **TXschools.gov**

How parents view results for their students
➡ **TexasAssessment.gov**