

August 5, 2005

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Alternative Education Accountability Campus Registration for 2006 Accountability Ratings

The 2005-06 alternative education accountability (AEA) campus registration process is open August 5 – 31, 2005. Detailed information on the AEA procedures for 2005 and beyond, attribution of alternative education campus (AEC) data, the AEA website, the 2005-06 AEA campus registration process, and the new at-risk registration criterion follows.

AEA Procedures for 2005 and Beyond

AEA procedures are described in *Part 2* of the *Accountability Manual*. AEA procedures for 2005 and beyond are based on the following guidelines:

- The AEA indicators are based on data submitted through standard data submission processes such as the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) or by the state testing contractor.
- The AEA measures are appropriate for alternative education programs offered on AECs rather than just setting lower standards on the same measures used in the standard accountability procedures. Furthermore, these measures ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency on the state assessments in order to graduate.
- The Texas Growth Index (TGI) and other improvement indicators are evaluated as base indicators for AEA ratings.
- Additional AEA criteria are included. Beginning in 2006, each registered AEC must have at least 65% at-risk students enrolled on the registered AEC verified through current year PEIMS fall enrollment data in order to be evaluated under AEA procedures. This new criteria could result in registered AECs being removed from the list for 2006.

Attribution of AEC Data

For 2006 accountability, campus accountability subset determines attribution of AEC test data. 2004-05 leaver data are attributed according to the 85-day rule for AECs that were registered for evaluation under AEA procedures in 2005. 2004-05 leaver data are attributed to the last campus of attendance for AECs that were not registered for evaluation under AEA procedures in 2005, but are registered in 2006.

The AEA Website

The AEA web address is <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/aea/>. Along with *Part 2* of the *Accountability Manual*, this site contains information necessary to complete the 2005-06 AEC registration process: the list of campuses that were registered for AEA in 2004-05 sorted by AEA campus type, an example of an acceptable rescission letter, the 2005-06 AEA Campus Registration Form, and the 2005-06 AEA Campus Type Change Form.

The 2005-06 AEA Campus Registration Process

AECs that registered in 2004-05 will be registered automatically in 2005-06. Campus registration changes made will not affect the 2004-05 list of registered AECs.

- For AECs that are already on the list and wish to remain registered, no action is necessary. However, please **verify the AEA campus type** for your registered AECs to ensure that each campus on the 2004-05 list of registered AECs is accurately identified as an AEC of Choice or Residential Facility. (Accurate identification of AECs of Choice and Residential Facilities is necessary to ensure proper evaluation of registered AECs. For example, Residential Facilities are not evaluated on Completion Rate II.) If the AEA campus type is incorrect, then an **AEA Campus Type Change Form is required**. An AEA Campus Type Change Form must be completed for each campus with an incorrect AEA campus type. The change form

must include the county-district-campus number for each AEC. The change form must be completed, signed by the superintendent, and sent to Nancy Rinehart in the Division of Performance Reporting at the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The change form and 2004-05 list of registered AECs are available at the web address above.

- For AECs that do not wish to continue AEA registration, a **rescission letter is required**. TEA must receive written notification on official district stationery and signed by the superintendent requesting that registration be rescinded for 2005-06. The letter must include the county-district-campus number for each AEC. Mail this letter to Nancy Rinehart in the Division of Performance Reporting at TEA. A sample rescission letter is available at the web address above.
- For each AEC that is not already on the list but wishes to be evaluated under 2006 AEA procedures, a **2006 Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) Campus Registration Form is required**. An AEA Campus Registration Form must be completed for each campus requesting AEA registration. The registration form must include the county-district-campus number for each AEC. The registration form must be completed, signed by the superintendent, and sent to Nancy Rinehart in the Division of Performance Reporting at TEA. The registration form is available at the web address above.

The 2005-06 AEA campus registration process closes on August 31, 2005. Rescission letters, registration forms, and campus type change forms received after August 31, 2005 will not be processed. Faxes will be accepted at (512) 936-6431; however, the original rescission letter(s), AEA Campus Registration Form(s), and/or AEA Campus Type Change Form(s) signed by the superintendent must still be sent to:

Texas Education Agency
Division of Performance Reporting
Attention: Nancy Rinehart
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494.

At-Risk Registration Criterion

An at-risk registration criterion will be phased in beginning in 2006. In order to be evaluated under 2006 AEA procedures, each registered AEC must have at least 65% at-risk students enrolled on the AEC verified through 2005-06 PEIMS fall enrollment data. A safeguard will be incorporated for those campuses that are below the 65% at-risk requirement such as averaging the rate over multiple years. **This new criteria could result in registered AECs being removed from the list for 2006.** You will be notified in March 2006 if you do not meet the AEA at-risk registration criterion and, as a result, will be evaluated under standard accountability procedures in 2006.

If you have any questions regarding the process for registration of campuses for evaluation under 2006 AEA procedures, please contact the Division of Performance Reporting by telephone at (512) 463-9704 or by e-mail at Performance.Reporting@tea.state.tx.us.

Contact Information

Texas Education Agency
Office of Accountability and Data Quality, Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner
Department of Accountability & Performance Monitoring, Nancy Stevens, Deputy Associate Commissioner
Division of Performance Reporting, Shannon Housson, Director
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