

Section III – The Basics: *Determining a Rating*

The previous two sections described the base indicators and the additional features of the system (Required Improvement and the Exceptions Provision). This section describes how to use the indicator data results with the additional features to determine campus and district ratings. The ratings for the overwhelming majority of campuses and districts can be determined this way. Some campuses and districts must be evaluated using different procedures. See *Section VI – Special Issues and Circumstances* for details about which campuses and districts are affected and how they are evaluated.

WHO IS RATED?

The state accountability system is required to rate all districts and campuses that serve students in grades 1 through 12. The first step is to identify the universe of districts and campuses that can be considered for a rating. For 2004, the universe is determined to be those districts and campuses that reported students in membership in any grades (early education through grade 12) in the fall of the 2003-04 school year. Most districts and campuses identified to be in the universe receive a standard rating label (*Exemplary, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, or Academically Unacceptable*). Some receive a label of *Not Rated*. Rating labels and their uses are described below.

Once the universe is established, the next step is to determine if the district or campus has TAKS results on which it can be evaluated. In order to attain one of the standard rating labels, districts and campuses must have at least one TAKS test result in the accountability subset. An effort is made through the pairing process to supply TAKS results to regular campuses (with any grades from 1 to 12) with no students in the grades tested so that they can also be evaluated. For more information on pairing see *Section VI – Special Issues and Circumstances*.

Districts and campuses that have only SDAA results, only completion rates, only dropout rates, or only combinations of these three will not receive a standard rating in 2004. To be eligible for a standard rating, TAKS results are required and *only* TAKS results are required. Districts and campuses need not have data for the SDAA, dropout, or completion indicators in order to receive a standard rating. Furthermore, performance on any one of the TAKS subjects is sufficient for a rating to be assigned (science, mathematics, reading/ELA, writing, or social studies).

Though at least one TAKS tester (in the accountability subset) is required to be considered for a rating, some places with very small numbers of total TAKS test results may ultimately receive a *Not Rated* label. The process of Special Analysis is employed when there are very small numbers of total test takers to determine if a rating is appropriate. See *Section VI – Special Issues and Circumstances* for details about Special Analysis.

RATING LABELS

Rating labels for districts are specified in statute. In 2004, campuses are assigned the same rating labels as districts rather than having slight differences as existed under the previous system. Thus, the campus rating label *Low Performing* is replaced with *Academically Unacceptable*.

For 2004, campuses and districts will be assigned one of the following rating labels.

Table 3: Rating Labels

	District/Charter Use	Campus Use
<i>Exemplary</i>	Used for districts/charters with at least one TAKS test result (in any subject) in the accountability subset. Small numbers subject to Special Analysis.	Used for campuses (regular and charter) serving grades 1-12 and with at least one TAKS test result (in any subject) in the accountability subset. Includes regular campuses with TAKS data due to pairing. Small numbers subject to Special Analysis.
<i>Recognized</i>		
<i>Academically Acceptable</i>		
<i>Academically Unacceptable</i>		
<i>Not Rated: Alternative Education</i>	For 2004 only, used for charters that operate one or more registered alternative education campuses. Regular school districts will not receive this rating label.	For 2004 only, used for registered alternative education campuses (regular and charter).
	Although registered alternative education campuses and charters will not be rated in 2004 based on academic performance, the commissioner of education has the authority to assign an <i>Academically Unacceptable</i> rating to address problems identified through Accountability System Safeguards, Performance-Based Monitoring, or other monitoring and compliance investigations.	
<i>Not Rated: Other</i>	Used for charters if they are new and would otherwise be rated <i>Academically Unacceptable</i> . Used for districts/charters in the unlikely event that there is insufficient data to rate due to no TAKS results in the accountability subset.	Used if the campus (regular or charter): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has no students enrolled in grades higher than kindergarten. ○ Is new and would otherwise be rated <i>Academically Unacceptable</i>. ○ Has insufficient data to rate due to no TAKS results in the accountability subset. ○ Is a designated Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) or a designated Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP).

Table 3: Rating Labels (continued)

<p><i>Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues</i></p>	<p>Used in the rare situation where the accuracy and/or integrity of performance results are compromised and it is not possible to assign a standard rating label based on the evaluation of performance. This label may be assigned temporarily at the time of the initial ratings release pending an on-site investigation or may be assigned as the final rating label for the year.</p> <p>This rating label is not equivalent to an <i>Academically Unacceptable</i> rating. The commissioner of education also has the authority to lower a standard rating or assign an <i>Academically Unacceptable</i> rating to address problems with the accuracy and/or integrity of performance results that are discovered through Accountability System Safeguards, Performance-Based Monitoring, or other monitoring and compliance reviews.</p> <p>See <i>Section V – Responsibilities and Consequences</i> for more information about the circumstances that trigger this rating label.</p> <p>If any campus within a district receives a rating of <i>Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues</i>, then the district’s rating will also be <i>Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues</i>. However, it is possible for a district rating to be <i>Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues</i> without any of its campuses having that rating label.</p>
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Annual accountability ratings are finalized when the accountability appeals process for the year is completed in the fall following release of the ratings.

The state accountability rating and the AYP status will be aligned in 2004 in that the labels for the two systems will be conjoined. For example, an *Academically Acceptable* district that also *Meets AYP*, will receive a label of *Academically Acceptable, Meets AYP*. See *Section VII – AYP and the Accountability System* for details about the relationship between the AYP and state accountability systems.

USING THE DATA TABLE TO DETERMINE A RATING

In mid-September, prior to finalizing all computations necessary for accountability ratings, TEA will send districts preview data tables for the district and each campus.

These tables will *not* show a rating and will *not* provide calculations for Required Improvement or the Exceptions Provision. However, using the data on the tables and the *2004 Accountability Manual*, districts can predict their ratings in advance of the TEA ratings release. *These preview data tables will contain unmasked data and must be treated as confidential.* That is, information that reveals the performance of an individual student may be shown.

A sample unmasked preview data table for a campus serving grades 7-12 is on the following pages. While not a common configuration, this grade span includes data for all accountability indicators.