

Accountability System Goals and Guiding Principles – 2013 and Beyond

GOALS

Texas will be among the top ten states in postsecondary readiness by 2020, by:

- Improving student achievement at all levels in the core subjects of the state curriculum*;
- Ensuring the progress of all students toward achieving Advanced Academic Performance *;
- Closing Advanced Academic Performance level gaps among groups*;
- Closing gaps among groups in the percentage of students graduating under the recommended high school program and advanced high school program*; and,
- Rewarding excellence based on other indicators in addition to state assessment results.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Student Performance

- The system is first and foremost designed to improve student performance.
- The system focuses on preparing students from the elementary grades and above for success after high school.

System Safeguards

- The system uses safeguards to minimize unintended consequences.

Recognition of Diversity

- The system is fair and addresses the diversity of student populations and educational settings.

Public Participation and Accessibility

- The system's development and implementation are informed by advice from Texas educators and the public.
- The system is understandable and provides performance results that are relevant, meaningful, and easily accessible.

Coordination

- The system is part of an overall coordinated strategy for state and federal ratings, reporting, monitoring, and interventions.

Statutory Compliance

- The system is designed to comply with statutory requirements.

Local Responsibility

- Districts are responsible for submitting accurate data upon which ratings are based.
- The system relies on local school districts to develop and implement local accountability systems that complement the state system.

Distinction Designations

- Recognized and exemplary distinction ratings are based on higher levels of student performance rather than more students performing at the satisfactory level.

* These goals are specified in Chapter 39.053(f) of the Texas Education Code.