

## **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.