

## Appendix D – Definition of Terms

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**Accountability Subset:** Only test results for students enrolled on the same campus/district on the snapshot (the last Friday in October) and testing dates are included in the campus/district performance measure.

**AEA:** Alternative Education Accountability. Registered alternative education campuses (AECs) are evaluated under AEA provisions which include different index targets and modifications to Index 4.

**AEC of Choice:** Alternative education programs provide accelerated instruction to students at risk of dropping out of school. At-risk students enroll at AECs of Choice to expedite progress toward performing at grade level and high school completion.

**Asylees/Refugees Exclusions:** Results of students coded as refugees and/or asylees on the STAAR answer documents are not used in determining ratings. To qualify as an unschooled asylee or refugee, each of the following criteria must be met:

- The student must be identified as limited English proficient (LEP) as defined by state law in TEC, Section 29.052, and must participate in a state-approved bilingual or ESL program.
- The student’s permanent record file must contain appropriate documentation of asylee/refugee status. The student must
  - be an asylee as defined by 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 400.41 or a refugee as defined by 8 United States Code, Section 1101, *and*
  - have a Form I-94 Arrival/Departure record, or a successor document, issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that is stamped with “Asylee,” “Refugee,” or “Asylum.”
- For each tested subject, the following is true:
  - for LAT grades and subjects, the LAT FORM and LAT Info areas must be filled in; and,
  - for all grades and subjects, column A of the Agency Use field must contain a “1” value.

For more information on qualifying as an unschooled asylee/refugee, refer to page 6 of the [2012-2013 STAAR Decision-Making Guide for LPACs](#).

**Campus:** This term includes charter campuses as well as campuses administered by traditional independent school districts.

**Campus Comparison Group:** Each campus is assigned to a unique comparison group of 40 other public schools (from anywhere in the state), that closely match that campus on six characteristics. See Appendix G for further details.

**Charter Operator:** A charter operator is treated like a district in the accountability system. The charter operator is identified with a unique six-digit number as are districts. The campus or

campuses administered by a charter are identified with a unique nine-digit number. The charter operator may administer instruction at one or more campuses.

**DAEP:** Disciplinary Alternative Education Program. State statute and statutory intent prohibit the attribution of student performance results to DAEPs. Attendance and performance data for students served in DAEPs are attributed to the home campuses.

**Data Integrity:** Refers to the quality of the data used to determine an accountability rating. The integrity of data can be compromised either through purposeful manipulation or through unintentional errors made through the data reporting process. In either case, if data integrity is in question, it may not be possible to determine a reliable rating. When possible, data shown on accountability reports is annotated if the integrity of the data is in question.

**Distinction Designations:** For 2013, Academic Achievement Distinction Designations are awarded to campuses ranked in the top 25 percent of campuses in the state in annual improvement in student achievement, and for academic achievement in English language arts and mathematics.

**District:** This term includes charter operators as well as traditional independent school districts.

**GED:** General Educational Development. The GED test was created in 1942 as a second-chance opportunity and is the only high school equivalency credential recognized in all 50 states.

**JJAEP:** Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program. State statute and statutory intent prohibit the attribution of student performance results to JJAEPs. Attendance and performance data for students served in JJAEPs are attributed to the home campuses.

**PEG:** Public Education Grant. In 1995, the Texas Legislature created the PEG program which permits parents with children attending campuses that are on the PEG list to request that their children be transferred to another campus within the same district or to another district. See TEC §§29.201 - 29.205 and Chapter 9 for more information.

**Registered AEC:** A campus registered for evaluation under AEA provisions that meets the 11 registration requirements, 75% at-risk registration criterion, and 50% grades 6-12 enrollment criterion. This term includes AECs of Choice and Residential Facilities.

**Required Improvement:** Compares prior-year and current-year performance. Beginning in 2014, the Level III Advanced performance standard will be used to evaluate Index 3 and the final Level II performance standard will be used to evaluate Index 4. A separate required improvement calculation at the index level for campuses and districts that do not meet the accountability target for the index will be considered for 2015 and beyond when the underlying indicators can be more appropriately used for year-to-year comparisons.

**Residential Facilities:** Education services are provided to students in private residential treatment centers and residential programs, detention centers, and correctional facilities operated by the TJJD. AECs and charter operators identified as Residential Facilities will not be assigned

rating labels in 2013. Performance index results will be reported but no rating label will be assigned.

**Small Numbers Analysis:** This process determines if a rating is appropriate for small districts and campuses that do not meet minimum size criteria using current year data.

**Snapshot Date:** October 26, 2012 was the snapshot date for the 2012-13 school year.

**Superintendent:** The educational leader and administrative manager of the district or charter operator. This term includes other titles that may apply to charter operators, such as chief executive officer, president, and chief administrative officer.

**TJJD:** Texas Juvenile Justice Department. TJJD is a combination of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and Texas Youth Commission (TYC).

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