

# 2003-04 School Report Card Definitions

## School Accountability Rating

School accountability ratings are based on the percent of students passing the TAKS, percent of SDAA tests that met ARD expectations, high school completion rate, and dropout rate for grades 7 & 8. Standards for TAKS, completion rate, and dropout rates must be met for *All Students* as well as for student groups (*African American, Hispanic, White, and Economically Disadvantaged*). Performance on SDAA must be met for *All Students*.

**Gold Performance Acknowledgment:** Some schools may also qualify for Gold Performance Acknowledgments for high performance on *Advanced Courses, AP/IB, Attendance, Commended Performance on TAKS, SAT/ACT, Recommended High School Program, or TAAS/TASP Equivalency*.

**Paired Schools:** Schools that reported enrollment but did not have grades in which the TAKS test is given (such as K–2 schools), were paired with schools with which they had a “feeder” relationship to determine accountability ratings.

## Indicators of Student Performance *(Report shows only those indicators that apply, depending on grade span at the school.)*

**TAKS Met 2004 Passing Standard:** The TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) is a standardized test that students in grades 3 through 11 must take. TAKS measures the extent that a student has learned, understood, and is able to apply the important concepts and skills expected at each tested grade level. Students are assessed in English language arts (grades 10 & 11), reading (grades 3-9), mathematics (grades 3-11), writing (grades 4 & 7), science (grades 5, 10 & 11), and social studies (grades 8, 10 & 11). Results shown include only the performance of those students who were enrolled at the campus by October 31, 2003. Results are summed across grades for all grades tested at the school.

**SDAA Examinations:** The State-Developed Alternative Assessment is for special education students in grades 3-8 who are receiving instruction in the curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) but for whom the TAKS test is not an appropriate measure of their academic progress. SDAA tests are given in reading, writing, and mathematics. The SDAA is designed to measure growth based on the student’s ARD (Admissions, Review, and Dismissal) committee expectations. Results are summed across grades and subject areas. This is a single measure showing the percent of SDAA tests taken that met ARD expectations, summed across grades (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and/or 8th) and subjects (reading, writing and/or mathematics)

**TAKS/SDAA Exemptions:** The report shows the percent of students who were exempted on every test, by exemption category. A student may be exempted from a test if he or she has received a special education (ARD) exemption or a limited-English proficiency (LEP) exemption.

**Progress of Prior Year TAKS Failers:** This measure shows the percent of students who failed the TAKS in 2003 but passed in 2004.

**Student Success Initiative (SSI):** Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade must pass the TAKS reading test in order to be promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. They were given three opportunities to pass: March, April, and July. Depending on grade span and information available for your school, up to four measures are shown: (1) *Students Requiring Accelerated Instruction* shows the percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who did not pass TAKS reading or were absent during the first administration. (2) *TAKS Cumulative Met Standard* shows the percent of students who took and passed the test during either the March or April administration. (3) *TAKS Failers Promoted by Grade Placement Committee* shows the percent of students who failed all TAKS reading attempts but were promoted to grade 4 by their grade placement committee. (4) *TAKS Met Standard* shows two calculations for students who failed all administrations of TAKS grade 3 reading in 2003: the percent who were promoted by their grade placement committee and subsequently passed the 2004 TAKS reading in grade 4, and the percent who were retained in grade 3 and subsequently passed the 2004 TAKS reading in grade 3.

**Attendance Rate:** The report shows the attendance rate for the entire school year for students in grades 1-12.

**Annual Dropout Rate (gr. 7-8):** The report shows what percent of grade 7-8 students dropped out in the 2002-03 and 2001-02 school years.

**Completion:** This indicator takes students who started 9th grade in 1999-2000 and shows their status in 2003. Two measures are provided: (1) *Completion/Student Status Rate* shows the percent of students who graduated, received a GED, continued high school, or dropped out. (2) *Completion Rate (Accountability Indicator)* sums the percent of students who graduated or received a GED. The same information is given for the class of 2002.

**Recommended High School Program Graduates:** The report shows the percent of graduates for the class of 2003 and 2002 who satisfied the requirements for the Texas State Board of Education Recommended High School Program or the Distinguished Achievement Program.

**TAAS/TASP Equivalency:** This shows the percent of graduates in the class of 2003 and 2002 who did well enough on the exit-level TAAS to have a 75% likelihood of passing the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) test. The TASP test measures reading, writing, and mathematics skills.

**College Readiness - Texas Success Initiative:** The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a program for improving student success at colleges and universities. This indicator shows the percent of students who scored high enough on the TAKS to be exempted from the TSI requirements.

**SAT/ACT Results:** The report provides four measures: (1) *Tested* shows the percent of graduates who took either the SAT or the ACT. (2) *At/Above Criterion* shows the percent of graduates who scored at or above the “Criterion Score” (criterion score is 1110 for SAT and 24 for ACT). (3) & (4) *Mean SAT Score* and *Mean ACT Score* show the average score on the SAT and ACT. Information is shown for the class of 2003 and 2002.

## School Characteristics

**Class Size Averages by Grade and Subject:** Class sizes are calculated from teacher class schedules. For example, the number of students in science is summed and divided by a count of the science classes. Elementary classes are shown by grade; secondary classes are shown by subject.

**Number of Students per Teacher:** The report shows the total number of students in membership, divided by the total number of teachers (expressed as full-time equivalents) at the school.

**Instructional Staff Percent:** This new measure indicates the percentage of the district’s full-time equivalent employees whose job function was to directly provide classroom instruction to students during the 2003-04 school year.

**Instructional Expenditure Ratio:** This new measure shows the percent of the district’s total actual expenditures for the 2002-03 fiscal year that were used to fund direct instructional activities.

**Expenditures per Student:** This value shows actual 2002-03 expenditures for groups of functions divided by the total number of 2002-03 students. Note that the number shown is not the amount actually spent on each and every student, but rather a per-pupil average of the total. Per pupil expenditures are shown for total expenditures and for three groupings of operating categories.

## Comparisons Provided

For each indicator, the report shows the performance for all students in the state (State Average), the district (District Average), the school group (School Group Median) and the school (School - All Students). The school “group” is a set of 40 other Texas schools that are similar to this school.

## Special Symbols

- An *asterisk* (\*) on a TAKS or SDAA indicator means that fewer than 5 students were in that classification, including zero students; an asterisk for all other indicators means that fewer than 5 students were in that classification, excluding zero students.
- For indicators other than TAKS or SDAA, a *dash* (-) means that no students were in that category.
- *n/a* - means that the information is not available or not applicable.
- A *question mark* (?) means that the information reported is outside of a reasonable expected range.
- A *>99%* is used to mask information that is at or near 100%; *<1%* is used to mask performance at or near 0%.