

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

This August, a court order prevented the release of A-F accountability ratings. This marks the second year ratings were blocked by litigation and the fifth consecutive year families, educators, and policymakers across Texas started the school year without a clear understanding of how well schools are meeting student academic needs.

CONTINUED DISRUPTIONS TO A-F SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS UNDERMINE PUBLIC EDUCATION

A transparent and consistent accountability system is necessary to set expectations for student learning, measure outcomes, and incentivize school systems to meet those expectations.

Since implementing the A-F system, Texas has only once released full A-F accountability ratings. While pauses for pandemic recovery were warranted, repeated litigation over administrative procedures threatens a return to normalcy and transparent understanding of educational progress.

The impact of a global pandemic was an unprecedented challenge. Statewide only 47% of students are meeting grade level standards across all grades and subjects, which drops to 36% for economically disadvantaged students as proficiency gaps persist.² Math in particular still lags pre-pandemic levels with only 41% of students proficient, a two percentage point decline from last year.³

After one of the most disruptive periods in the history of Texas public education, school accountability is critical to ensuring we can fully recover from the pandemic and get students back on track academically. A handful of districts have volunteered their ratings and should be commended for transparently sharing their progress and areas for improvement. However, not all districts have the data capacity to do the same.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are students entering 10th grade this year who are enrolled in school systems that have only been rated once since A-F system was introduced when they were in the 3rd grade.

2018

Transition to A-F:¹

Campus letter grades were not released

2019

Transparent Accountability:

First and **only** full release of A-F ratings for 100% of districts and campuses

2020

Pandemic Pause:

No ratings were released

2021

Pandemic Pause:

No ratings were released

2022

Pandemic Transition:

D and F ratings were not issued

2023

Litigation Hold:

Court order prevented release of ratings

2024

Litigation Hold:

Court order prevented release of ratings

PARENTS, EDUCATORS, AND POLICYMAKERS RELY ON YEAR-OVER-YEAR ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS



Every child in Texas deserves access to a high quality education. Without A-F ratings, Texas cannot measure the quality of our public schools consistently across the state. Consistent and reliable ratings are essential for improving our schools and creating a public school system that effectively supports each student's academic success.



Texas parents have the right to transparent information about school performance to make informed decisions about their child's education. With the continued delay in publicly available accountability ratings, parents are left in the dark about whether students are being adequately prepared for the future.



The Texas Legislature uses the A-F accountability system as their only holistic picture of school performance across the state. Without easily accessible performance data, Legislators lack an efficient mechanism to monitor the progress of past investments and prioritize future policies that improve student outcomes.



School districts rely on accountability ratings to differentiate campus needs, inform resource allocations, and target central support. Districts across the state are left without the ability to identify bright spots to learn from and analyze year-over-year performance due to litigation brought by a handful of their peers.



Taxpayers expect the state and our public schools to be good stewards of public funds. Ongoing disruptions to accountability deprive taxpayers of a transparent system for tracking the return on investment for the \$80+ billion we spend annually on public education.

