



TACS 2021 Legislative Priority:

Assessment and Accountability

The Texas Association of Community Schools supports a comprehensive school accountability system with an assessment system that provides meaningful opportunities for each student, campus and district to meet all local, state, and federal performance expectations.

HISTORY

In 2018, each Texas public school districts were labeled for the first time with an A – F letter-grade rating by the Commissioner of Education. In August 2019, both campuses and districts received A – F ratings. Texas schools continue to adjust to new instructional approaches and technology issues as a result of COVID-19.

TALKING POINTS

- A - F rating systems are based predominately on a one test/one day STAAR test. During the 86th Legislative Session, Raise Your Hand Texas (RYHT) Public Education Perceptions Poll ranked high-stakes standardized testing among the top three concerns to be addressed. A majority of the responders rated the schools in their community an “A” or “B” after looking at all of the items provided by their local school districts – job training, extracurricular activities, and family and student engagement.
- Provide assessments that are timely and designed to inform instruction.
- Establish accountability systems that account for varying socio-economic conditions that impact student performance. Student growth should be a primary focus for student assessment rather than focusing on a snapshot of performance on one day during the school year.
- An accountability system designed by the district and community will allow innovation and customized instruction that fits the unique needs of the community. Dual credit programs and locally determined industry certifications can help students achieve necessary skills to enter the local workforce and/or attend college or universities of their choosing.
- Remediation of learning opportunities lost as a result of COVID will take time. A moratorium on accountability tied to testing for this year is a great start; however, a comprehensive system developed at the local level is the best way to ensure students, parents, teachers, and communities can continue to measure growth across all aspects of each child’s education.

REQUEST

- Texas’ accountability system should appropriately measure all factors of an education system including appropriate assessments (at a local and state level) as a part of what districts provide.

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