

ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT UPDATE

February 12, 2025



- **Capitol Connections**
 - SB 2
 - Assessment & Accountability Bills
- **More to Discuss in March:** Dr. Rebecca Cooper, Texas A&M University-Texarkana, "Impact of STAAR Redesign on Student Performance"
- **TEA Updates**
 - 2025 & 2026 Accountability Manuals
 - 2024 NAEP
 - RDA / A-F Integration Taskforce
 - Commissioner's Adopted Rules - EBs

SB 2 – Engrossed

Testing & Reporting Requirements

1/29 - Senate Ed K-16 → Y: 9/N: 2

2/5 - Senate → Y: 19/N: 12 incl
19 floor amendments adopted

2/6 – Received in House

15 Sec. 29.357. PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM. As a condition of
16 participating in the program, a participating parent must agree to:
17 (1) spend money received through the program only for
18 expenses allowed under Section 29.359;
19 (2) ensure the annual administration to the child of a
20 nationally norm-referenced assessment instrument or the
21 appropriate assessment instrument required under Subchapter B,
22 Chapter 39;
23 (3) share or authorize the administrator of an
24 assessment instrument to share with the program participant's
25 certified educational assistance organization the results of any
26 assessment instrument required to be administered to the child
27 under Subdivision (2) or other law;

‘How valid and reliable is this?’: Dallas ISD raises questions about STAAR test scoring

The Texas Education Agency reviewed thousands of DISD students' answers. Afterward, many students saw points added to their scores.



By **Talia Richman**
Staff writer

Jan. 16, 2025 | Updated 6:00 a.m. CST | ⌚ 5 min. read

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2025/01/16/how-valid-and-reliable-is-this-dallas-isd-raises-questions-about-staar-test-scoring/>

“Texas’ use of computers to score written answers on the state standardized test is under scrutiny in Dallas after school officials learned that thousands of students were awarded marks that were too low.”

“Dallas ISD Superintendent Stephanie Elizalde said the district asked the state education agency to review a sample of STAAR responses to confirm that students earned the correct score. **Of the more than 4,600 answers that DISD submitted, roughly 43% showed an improvement after they were rescored.**”

Capitol Connections

Assessment & Accountability Bills

BY THE NUMBERS:

27 bills filed to date

80 % seek to decrease testing

2 number of political parties who have filed bills to decrease testing

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING:

- SB 2 – will testing & reporting stay in?
NOTE: HB 2657 by Rep. Cook – prohibits regulations of homeschool programs
- HB 1388 by Ch. Buckley – adds JROTC & ASVAB for CCMR military readiness
- HB 2597 by Rep. Villalobos – requires a one-year delay before TEA implements A-F changes
- HB 20 by Rep. Gates – creates an Applied Sciences Pathway
- HB 2657 by Rep. Hopper - abolishes TEA, eliminates the position of COE, & transfers powers and duties to the SBOE

***A–F* Accountability Manual Adoption Timeline for 2025 & 2026 ratings**

Source: December TAAG meeting <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/taag-meeting-december-2024.pdf>

In 2025, the A-F Accountability System remains static

- The rules as adopted in May 2024 still apply. **There are no proposed changes** to cut points, domain, or indicator methodology for 2025 accountability ratings.
- The rules for the 2025 accountability year were initially adopted in 2024 and are being **re-adopted** as annually required.
- A Public Comment period will take place in **January 2025**. The manual will be **effective in April 2025**.

Source: December TAAG meeting <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/taag-meeting-december-2024.pdf>

Year of Accountability	Proposed Rule Open to Public Comment	Effective Date of Final Accountability Manual
2014	5/30	8/7
2015	5/29	8/4
2016	5/27	8/11
2017	4/14	6/27
2018	5/18	8/7
2019	5/3	8/5
2020	5/1	7/21
2021	4/16	7/13
2022	5/13	8/11
2023	5/19	11/14
2024	2/23/24	5/14/24
2025	2/23/24 Re-posted January 2025	5/14/24 Re-adopted April 2025

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2018	5/23	8/7
2019	5/23	8/5
2020	5/23	7/21
2021	5/23	7/13
2022	5/23	8/11
2023	5/19	11/14
2024	2/23/24	5/14/24
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What public comments & feedback did TSA submit to TEA?

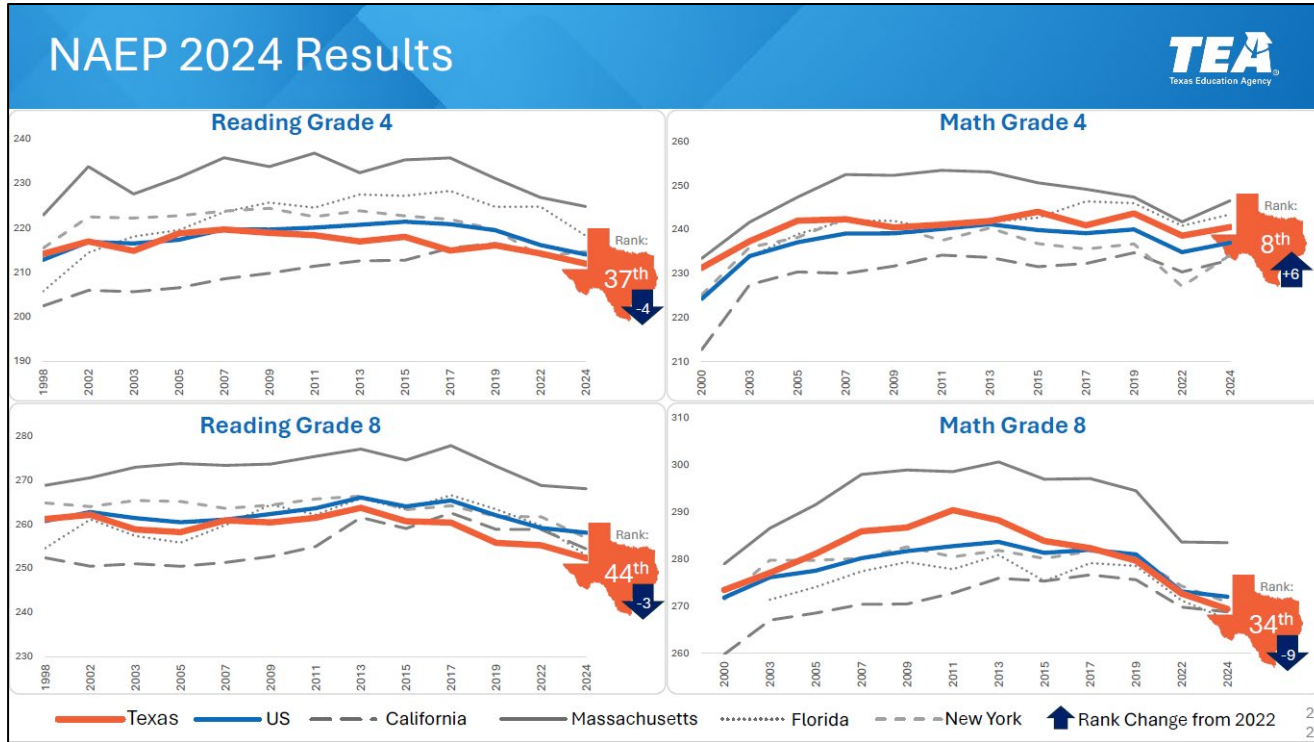
2026 A-F Accountability Rules adoption will take place before the school year.

- Based on feedback, the *A-F* Accountability Rating System Manual and its proposed rules for 2026 Accountability Ratings will be published prior to the start of the school year.
- A Public Comment period will take place in **April 2025**. The manual will be **effective in June 2025**.

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2024	2/23/24	5/14/24
2025	2/23/24 Re-posted January 2025	5/14/24 Re-adopted April 2025
2026	April 2025	June 2025

A National Comparison: NAEP 2024

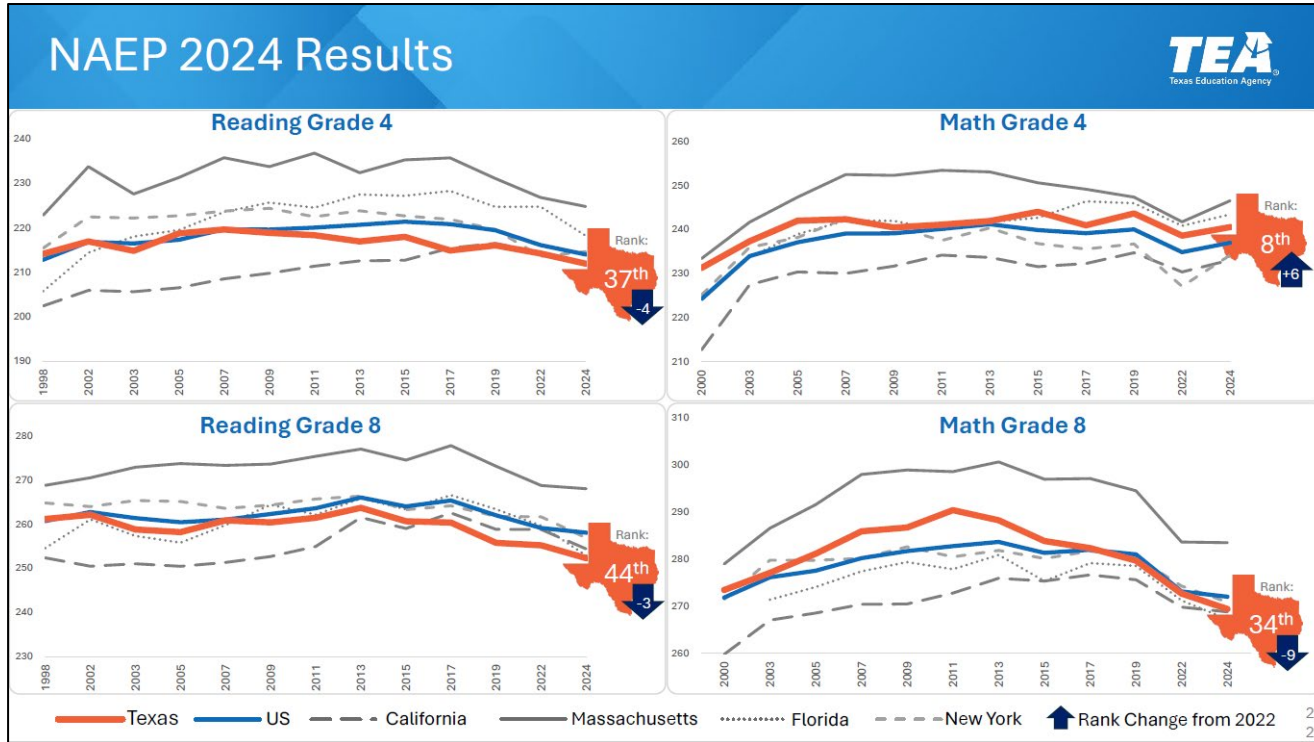
HOW IT STARTED



Source: Commissioners Comments to SBOE, 1-29-2025

A National Comparison: NAEP 2024

HOW IT STARTED



Source: Commissioners Comments to SBOE, 1-29-2025

HOW IT'S GOING

Kelly Rasti
@KellyRasti

TEA tells TX Senators that when adjusted for student demographics, Texas ranks 9th & 10th in reading, and 3rd & 6th in math in the nation based on NAEP scores in 4th and 8th grade respectively.

(Reminder that state level NAEP data doesn't exist for private schools.)

#txlege

Source: Commissioners Comments to Senate Finance, 2-10-2025

RDA Integration Taskforce

January 27, 2025

- Bring creative solutions and best practices to the group for discussions.
- Provide both synchronous and asynchronous feedback in a timely manner.
- **Serve as a spokesperson for all Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide recommendations to the TEA.**

RDA A-F Integration Taskforce Membership

School District and Charter School Representatives

Kelly Baehren, Chief Academic Officer, Waller ISD

Denise Bell, Director of Accountability Systems and Data Analysis, Waco ISD

Dr. Jacqueline Boney Taylor, Accountability Coordinator & District Testing Coordinator, Advantage Academy

Ashton Booth, Director of Special Education, 504, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Elgin ISD

James Cureton, Director of Assessments and Data Analysis, Tyler ISD

Melissa DeSimone, Executive Director of Research, Assessment, and Accountability, Northwest ISD

Jennie Good, Director of Accountability and Assessment, New Caney ISD

Jessica Harrison, District Testing & Accountability Administrator, Canutillo ISD

Raul Medellin, Coordinator of Accountability, Ysleta ISD

Jill Morris, Director of Accountability, Research, Evaluation, and Assessment, Bryan ISD

Lisa Nixon, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Pearland ISD

Debby Noffsinger, Director of Assessment, Accountability and Compliance, Dickinson ISD

Elizabeth Schrader, Coordinator of Accountability and Assessment HEB ISD

Sheryl Stewart, Director of Accountability & Assessment, Allen ISD

Melissa Sulak, Executive Director of CCMR, Red Oak ISD

Gautier Tirado, Corporate Instructional Officer, Triumph Public High Schools

Courtney Witherell, Senior Director Accountability and Assessment, Comal ISD

Regional Education Service Center Representatives

Chris Griffin, Director of Special Education Services, ESC Region 12

Cliff Kinder, Liaison Special Education, ESC 15

Angel Lozano, Strategic Data Performance Coach, Region 4

Overview of Big Changes Proposed:

- Propose a Domain 3B: Reporting at the District Level for some RDA groups and measures.
- Propose measuring all 3B STAAR measures with the A-F Student Success (Domain 1) methodology.
- Propose no integration of an OSP group (maintain individual foster, homeless, military-connected individual reporting)
- Propose integration of all BE/ESL/ALM/not served and SPED groups from RDA into 3B
- Propose a Domain 3B measure: TELPAS for Students in US Multiple Years
- Propose a Domain 3B measure: Annual Dropout Rate
- Propose no integration of TELPAS Reading Proficiency
- Propose no integration of Significant Disproportionality measures (though more to discuss internally and with RDA taskforce)
- Propose minimum size of 10, as with A-F (RDA min is 30; 2022 A-F district min was 10)

TSA RDA BRUNCH & LEARN

*Please share this
opportunity with district
special education,
emergent bilingual, and
other special
populations staff.*

Texas School Alliance

**Accountability RDA Brunch & Learn
ZOOM Meeting on February 14, 2025
9:99-10:00 a.m.**



**Join Us for an RDA A-F Integration
Taskforce Update!**

Commissioner's Adopted Rules Concerning State Plan for Educating Emergent Bilingual Students

Commissioner of Education Rules

The following Texas Administrative Code (TAC) rule actions were filed with the Texas Register for publication in the February 7, 2025 issue.

[Adopted Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 89, Adaptations for Special Populations, Subchapter BB, Commissioner's Rules Concerning State Plan for Educating Emergent Bilingual Students](#)

Summary: The adopted amendments clarify terminology based on stakeholder feedback and codify current program practices and requirements. Additionally, the adopted amendment to §89.1226 aligns with recommendations from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) Office of English Language Acquisition regarding testing accommodations. The rules were adopted with [changes since published as proposed](#).

Effective Date: February 10, 2025

Source: rules@tea.texas.gov

Commissioner's Adopted Rules Concerning State Plan for Educating Emergent Bilingual Students

The rules below pertaining to Emergent Bilingual programs and students are adopted effective Monday 2/10/2025. A high-level summary of key sections are below:

1. Students on a parental denial are eligible for services and linguistic supports on STAAR without penalty (89.1226i). (Formerly, if a student received linguistic supports, they were not eligible to be reclassified.)
2. For bilingual and ESL waivers (due to a lack of certified teachers), districts must create an action plan to ensure services will be required in the subsequent year (89.1207d(6)). That next year, a waiver will only be approved if the district has met or exceeded state averages on STAAR or reduces number of teachers on waivers by 25% (89.1207f).

Source: rules@tea.texas.gov