

SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY ARE CRITICAL TO A TALENTED WORKFORCE

ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY ARE NECESSARY



Our state's assessments and accountability system is needed to provide clarity about **expectations, incentivize adults** to meet those expectations, **measure progress**, and **transparently report** whether goals were met.



After investing **more than \$160K per student** from Pre-K through 12th Grade, **only 22% of Texas students earn a postsecondary credential by age 24**. Our system of assessments and accountability is the best way to ensure that public investment is invested wisely in pursuit of better outcomes.

ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY WORK

Students on A- and B- rated campuses are:

1.8x

as likely to meet
grade-level reading
expectations

2.6x

as likely to meet
grade-level math
expectations

2.7x

as likely to be
college ready
upon graduation

than students on D or F campuses. ¹

TEXANS VALUE ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

87%

of Texas voters support the use of
annual reading and math tests to provide
“apples-to-apples comparisons”
of how local schools are performing relative to
others in the state. The current Accountability
system provides just that.

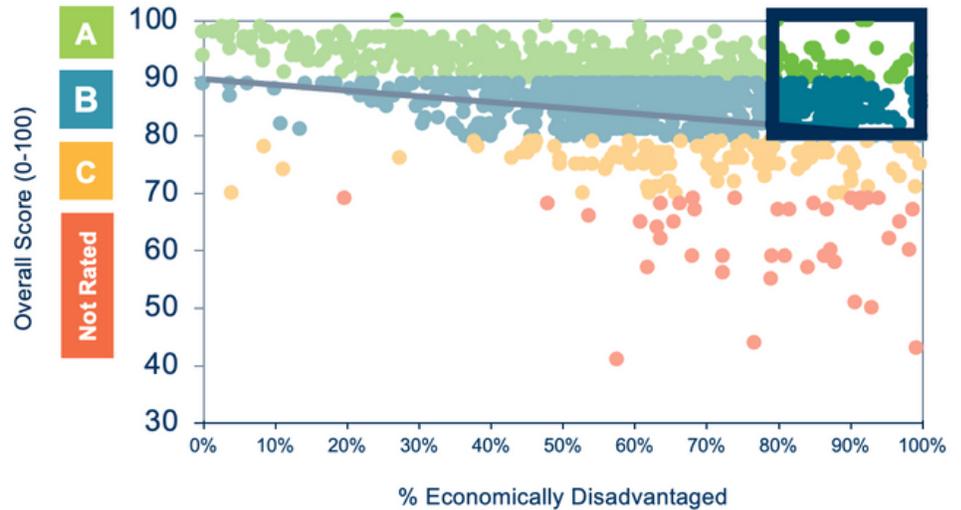
1: Commit Analysis, Texas Education Agency, Accountability Report, Report Year 2022.
2: Texas 2036 Voter Poll, Oct. 2022.

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HOPE CHART:

Districts with high populations of students experiencing economic instability still regularly achieve A & B ratings.

Learning from these bright spots allows Texas to scale best practices and improve student outcomes across the state.³



TEXAS' CURRENT STATE OF ASSESSMENTS: SETTING THE RECORD STRAGHT



Texas Schools are NOT funded based on STAAR

STAAR scores and school accountability ratings have no bearing on the allocation of funding provided in the Texas school finance system. The only exception is for continually underperforming schools that can receive additional resources and support.



STAAR results are LOW-STAKES for students

Test results in Grades 3-8 do not impact course grades or promotion to the next grade-level (HB 4545, 87R). Students can also satisfy alternative graduation requirements without passing STAAR End of Course exams as determined by an Individual Graduation Committee (HB 999, 87R).



STAAR scores do NOT dictate teacher pay

Texas school systems have historically utilized a teacher salary scale based on tenure and not on student performance. Although the Teacher Incentive Allotment (HB 3, 86R) allows districts to opt in to rewarding their most effective teachers, currently 92% of school systems use measures other than STAAR or a combination of multiple instruments to measure student growth.⁴



Teachers do NOT have to "teach to the test" for their students to succeed

Effective educators are not "teaching to the test." Strong instruction based on pedagogical best practices—not "drill and kill"—leads to strong student learning as reflected in STAAR scores.

³: Texas Education Agency, Accountability Report, Report Year 2022.

⁴: Texas Education Agency Materials.