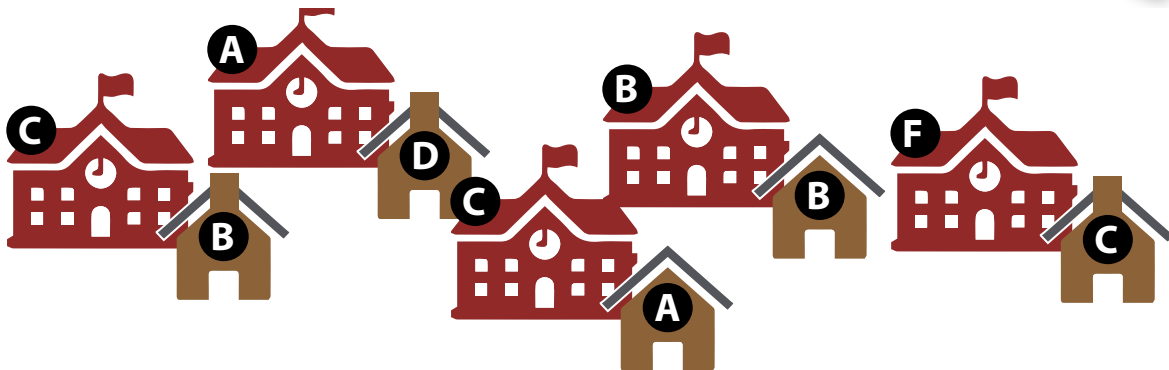


# 2017 Legislative Priorities

for the 85th Session of the Texas Legislature



## Replace the A-F School and District Accountability Rating System

Starting in 2018, the Texas commissioner of education will label each public school district and campus with a rating in the form of an A-F letter grade to comply with House Bill 2804, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature in 2015.

Fort Bend ISD is preparing for the new statewide accountability system that is set to go into effect in August 2018, even as FBISD trustees and administrators ask legislators to implement a more meaningful accountability system as part of the Board's Legislative Priorities.

### Upcoming House Bill 2804 Dates

- Beginning in 2018, the state will transition from a four index system to a five domain system, with each campus and the District receiving six A-F letter grades: one grade in each of the five domains, as well as an overall grade.
- On January 5, 2017, TEA released reports to the public showing the ratings that each district and campus would have received in Domains I-IV for the 2015-16 school year, if the A-F rating system had been in place. Overall campus grades or district ratings were not released at this time.
- By summer 2017, districts and campuses will report to TEA which three indicators will be used for Domain V, and the criteria that will be used to measure performance in those indicators.
- By spring 2018, districts and campuses will assign themselves an overall rating of A, B, C, D, or F for Domain V and a rating for each of the three indicators used for Domain V.
- By August 15, 2018, TEA will assign each district and campus an overall rating of A, B, C, D, or F and a rating for each domain, using student data from the 2017-18 school year.

## RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### **Making Repealing the A-F Accountability Rating System for Texas Public Schools a Legislative Priority**

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has enacted legislation that requires the Commissioner of Education to implement a public school rating system that would assign A through F grades to schools and districts beginning with the 2017-18 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, at least 16 states have implemented a similar rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts and, to date, there is no definitive research that suggests these ratings have improved student or school performance; and

**WHEREAS**, in a recent statewide survey conducted by the State Board of Education, an overwhelming majority of Texans said they do not want standardized test scores to serve as the primary basis for a public school rating system; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority (55%) of the A through F grades will be based on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR), a high-stakes, standardized test that does not accurately measure student learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the STAAR provides little meaningful information to guide student learning, inform teachers or report academic progress to parents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner's proposed rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts includes five domains and twenty-three unrelated indicators to determine a single grade, leaving the public with an invalid, disconnected reflection of school quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner's proposed rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts creates a false impression about students, ignoring the unique strengths of each school and unfairly reduces each student's worth to the school's assigned grade; and,

**WHEREAS**, Fort Bend ISD takes actions to ensure the District operates within the framework of District Core Beliefs and Commitments and its mission to transform teaching and learning by inspiring and equipping all students to pursue futures beyond what they can imagine; and

**WHEREAS**, we embrace meaningful accountability that informs students, parents, and teachers about the learning needs of each student and each school; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe our state's future prosperity relies on a high-quality education system that prepares students for college and careers, and without such a system Texas' economic competitiveness and ability to attract new business will falter; and now,

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees respectfully calls on the Texas Legislature to repeal the rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts and develop a community-based accountability system that empowers school districts to design their own internal systems of assessment and accountability that, while meeting general state standards, allows districts to innovate and customize curriculum and instruction to meet the needs and interests of each student and their communities; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this new system should encompass multiple considerations, reflect greater validity, and, more accurately reflect what students know and can do in terms of the rigorous standards.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this priority begins within the leadership of the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees and together, we share one unified message to all involved:

***We believe all children can learn; we have high expectations for each of the students we serve; we want to use all resources to make a difference in the lives of each child; the future of Texas depends on educating our growing enrollment with diverse needs; and the public schools are charged by the Texas Constitution with this great mission for Texas.***

**APPROVED and ADOPTED** this 12th day of December, 2016, by the Board of Trustees.