



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 14, 2018

SFDRICISD Earns a “B” in TEA’s New Accountability Rating System

Today, the Texas Education Agency rolled out its most anticipated and politicized accountability system yet. For the first time, school districts across the state received letter grade ratings within the new accountability system. San Felipe Del Rio CISD is proud to announce that it has earned a “B” with the new A-F rating system.

During a recent preview of the new accountability rating system, Commissioner Mike Morath stated the redesign of the accountability system would be easier for families to understand how well their schools are educating children “by simplifying academic accountability to a tiered designation of A-F grades: A is a top score. F is failing. This is a big change from the previous system which identified school districts as Met Standard and Improvement Required, sort of a pass/fail system.”

During his 2018 Convocation address on Monday, SFDRICISD Superintendent Dr. Carlos Rios stated that for the past few years the District has worked extremely hard on developing and implementing systems that would improve student learning. “We’ve worked hard on the Planning Protocol that anchors the planning (of lessons) for our students. We’ve worked extremely hard to build a system that supports struggling and non-traditional learners at schools, such as Blended Academy; and we have gone out of our way to invest significant dollars in providing students with innovative places for learning such as the CTE Center and Early College High School.” He added that the District has been courageous in its efforts to focus on and continue its work on Bilingual Programs. It just would not be fair to work so hard and get a D.”

Dr. Rios added this morning, “We are extremely proud of the work our teachers and students have engaged in over the past year. Although there is significant work ahead of us, we are proud of the work thus far and are confident about our District’s future standings.”

What You Need to Know About the New A-F Accountability System

The 84th Legislature passed HB 2804, and changed the Texas school accountability system so that every campus and district will receive a rating of Met Standard or Improvement Required for campuses and letter grades for school districts, from A-F, for the 2018 Accountability year. The law requires campus and districts to be issued the respective ratings based on three different areas of performance or “domains,” and those three grades are then combined into one single overall rating.

The three domains are:

Domain I - Student Achievement

Domain II - School Progress

- Part A: Academic Growth
- Part B: Relative Performance

Domain III - Closing Performance Gaps

- ✓ Only school districts will receive the official letter grade in 2018. Campuses will receive a Met Standard or Improvement required domain and overall rating in 2018, and an alpha rating beginning in 2019.

- ✓ The grades will factor in the percent of students who passed or demonstrated growth on the STAAR tests at various grade levels known as "Approaching", "Meets" and "Masters."
- ✓ Seventy percent (70%) of the overall rating will be based on the best domain score of School Progress or Relative Performance and the Student Achievement domain.
- ✓ Thirty percent (30%) of the rating calculates the percentage of student groups meeting applicable targets for each indicator assigned to the campus type and district. This domain addresses the United States Department of Education's (USDE) federal accountability requirements.
- ✓ The ratings will consider how well districts and high schools are preparing students by considering graduation rates, college prep or dual credit courses, military enlistment and career-related certification.
- ✓ Domain and overall scores will be scaled to reflect alpha-grades; A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, and any percent below will be assigned an F.
- ✓ As of August 7, 2018, an update to the accountability statute states that if an Improvement Required rating is received in three of the four areas of Student Achievement (School Progress, Part A: Academic Growth; School Progress, Part B: Relative Performance; or Closing the Gaps), the highest scaled score a campus can receive for the overall rating is a score of 59; meaning campuses will receive an Improvement Required rating.
- ✓ The new system allows districts to come up with their own local accountability system that takes into account STAAR performance. Other factors — such as extracurricular participation — can be considered. That rolls out next year.