

**Invited Testimony
of
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Spring Branch Independent School District**

**State of Texas
Select Committee on Public School Accountability
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Summary of Testimony

- Strong believer in public school accountability.
- Current accountability system is past its useful life cycle.
- The accountability system needs to be redesigned or overhauled.
- What is the State's goal for every student?
- A stronger accountability system should measure progress of the system to the stated goal, influence behavior of those in the system to meeting the goal, and inform all stakeholders of the system's performance towards the goal.
- How do you use the accountability system to guide district practice?
 - Try to deemphasize the system.
 - Data driven decision-making impacts curriculum planning, staff development, and instruction.
 - Directs resources to the areas of greatest need.
- What benefits have you seen due to the accountability system?
 - Accountability for every child.
 - Provided an instructional focus.
- What unintended consequences have arisen due to the accountability system?
 - The emphasis on skills versus concepts.
 - The cost of the system – cost/benefit analysis.
 - The system has become a compliance model versus a performance model.
 - The mixed messages sent by the multiple accountability systems.
 - Examples:
 - Edgewood Elementary School
 - Spring Woods High School
 - Public Education Grant
- If the goal is defined as post-secondary success – what do colleges look for in our students?
 - TAKS?
 - School/District Rating?
 - SAT?
 - ACT?
 - Advanced Courses?
- What is important to me as a parent?
 - My children are happy.
 - My children are learning.
 - My children are safe.
- Thank you for your time and commitment.