



*Serving the counties of District 2: Fannin, Delta, Hunt, Hopkins, Rains,
Rockwall, Kaufman, Van Zandt, and part of Dallas County*

Education Honor Roll

This week the Texas Education Agency (TEA) released its first official A-F ratings for school districts. Overall, districts in Senate District 2 scored well in the ratings and we commend them for a difficult job well done. Special congratulations for a job well done are in order for the students, teachers and administrators for their grade of "A" in:

- Bland,
- Caddo Mill,
- Martins Mill,
- Rockwall, and
- Sunnyvale ISDs.

High honorable mentions go out to the students, teachers and administrators in districts with a grade of "B":

- Boles,
- Canton,
- Celeste,
- Cooper,
- Cumby,
- Ector,
- Edgewood,
- Fannindel,
- Forney,
- Garland,
- Grand Saline,
- Greenville,
- Honey Grove,
- Kaufman,
- Kemp,
- Lone Oak,
- Mabank,
- Richardson,
- Royse City,
- Scurry-Rosser,
- Sulphur Springs,
- Trenton,
- Van, and
- Wolfe City ISDs.

According to the TEA website txschools.org, "Overall grades are calculated based on performance in three key areas, or domains. We take the higher score between how much students know and can do (Student Achievement) or how much better students are doing than last year or than peers in similar schools (School Progress). We then consider whether performance gaps exist among different groups of students (Closing the Gaps.)"





Serving the counties of District 2: Fannin, Delta, Hunt, Hopkins, Rains, Rockwall, Kaufman, Van Zandt, and part of Dallas County

Education Honor Roll *(continued)*

Student Achievement

The grade for student achievement is calculated:

- 40 % STAAR Performance (Standardized Test)
- 40% College, Career, and Military Readiness
- 20% Graduation Rate

School Progress

School progress is based on a school's strengths. Sometimes students in a school have shown a lot of academic progress and the school scores higher in Academic Growth. Other schools are outperforming similar schools and score higher in Relative Performance. To recognize the school's strengths, the higher of these two scores is used for School Progress.¹

Closing the Gaps

Closing the gaps measures the percentage of different groups of students that are performing above state goals in four areas. Even in schools where many students perform well, performance gaps can exist among different groups of students. The Closing the Gaps domain looks at each group of students separately and sets achievement targets for those groups along four different areas. The more targets that are met, the more points are awarded.²

- 50% Grade Level Performance
- 10% Academic Growth/Graduation Rate
- 10% English Language Proficiency
- 30% Student Achievement

TEA has made efforts in the past year to address concerns from parents, educators, and lawmakers about the need for standardized assessment testing and the A-F accountability system. Parents can now see the specific tests that their child has taken and have access to tools to help to improve their performance. That information can be viewed at texasassessment.com. The result is one of the most transparent accountability systems in the nation. Everyone has access to the components that are being scored and the explanations of how that scoring was done. Additionally, local districts are able to develop local accountability standards if they wish to share other highlights of their districts or campuses.

Despite the improvements, some school districts in the state were tweeting hours before the release of the scores that they reject the A-F ratings: "our district and our schools are more than a grade based on a state standardized test."

As every parent knows, their child is far more than the A-F ratings a child brings home on their report card. That does not stop them from finding report cards useful tools to determine when a child needs praise and/or improvement.

Just like our students are more than their grades, our schools are more than a test. Hopefully, the TEA, with input from educators and guidance from the legislature, will continue refining and improving the accountability system to reflect all aspects of education, not just testing.





Education Honor Roll *(continued)*

Many students are starting back to school this week and we should all remember to slow down in those school zones and make sure to stop for school buses loading and unloading. Thank you to all of the teachers and administrators who have been working to get their classrooms and campuses ready for the new academic year! Our thoughts and prayers go out to you as we entrust you with the state's most valuable asset - the next generation.

¹ https://txschools.org/districts/116915/school-progress#student_growth

² <https://txschools.org/districts/116915/closing-the-gaps>

