

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) proposes an amendment to §97.1003, concerning local accountability systems. The proposed amendment would modify the timeline for submission of a local accountability plan to TEA.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: Section 97.1003 defines the requirements school districts and open-enrollment charter schools must meet if they choose to create a local accountability plan to assign an overall performance rating for a campus.

The proposed amendment to §97.1003 would amend subsection (f)(3) by specifying that a local accountability plan, including its components, domains, and overall scaled scores and ratings, must be submitted to TEA on a timeline determined by the commissioner. This amended subsection would remove the first week of July as the deadline. This change would allow TEA to publish timelines that best fit the needs of districts and charter schools.

FISCAL IMPACT: Marian Schutte, deputy associate commissioner for authorizing and policy, has determined that for the first five-year period the proposal is in effect, there are no additional costs to state or local government, including school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, required to comply with the proposal.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT: The proposal has no effect on local economy; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required under Texas Government Code, §2001.022.

SMALL BUSINESS, MICROBUSINESS, AND RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT: The proposal has no direct adverse economic impact for small businesses, microbusinesses, or rural communities; therefore, no regulatory flexibility analysis, specified in Texas Government Code, §2006.002, is required.

COST INCREASE TO REGULATED PERSONS: The proposal does not impose a cost on regulated persons, another state agency, a special district, or a local government and, therefore, is not subject to Texas Government Code, §2001.0045.

TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT: The proposal does not impose a burden on private real property and, therefore, does not constitute a taking under Texas Government Code, §2007.043.

GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT: TEA staff prepared a Government Growth Impact Statement assessment for this proposed rulemaking. During the first five years the proposed rulemaking would be in effect, it would not create or eliminate a government program; would not require the creation of new employee positions or elimination of existing employee positions; would not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency; would not require an increase or decrease in fees paid to the agency; would not create a new regulation; would not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation; would not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to its applicability; and would not positively or adversely affect the state's economy.

PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COST TO PERSONS: Ms. Schutte has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of enforcing the proposal would be allowing TEA to publish submission timelines that best fit the needs of districts and charter schools. There is no anticipated economic cost to persons who are required to comply with the proposal.

DATA AND REPORTING IMPACT: The proposal would have no new data and reporting impact. Data reporting currently required by the rule would remain unchanged.

PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS: TEA has determined that the proposal would not require a written report or other paperwork to be completed by a principal or classroom teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The public comment period on the proposal begins October 18, 2024, and ends November 18, 2024. A request for a public hearing on the proposal submitted under the Administrative Procedure Act must be received by the commissioner of education not more than 14 calendar days after notice of the proposal has been published in the Texas Register on October 18, 2024. A form for submitting public comments is available on the TEA website at [https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/Commissioner_Rules_\(TAC\)/Proposed_Commissioner_of_Education_Rules/](https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/Commissioner_Rules_(TAC)/Proposed_Commissioner_of_Education_Rules/).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The amendment is proposed under Texas Education Code, §39.0544, which requires the commissioner to adopt rules regarding the local assignment of campus performance ratings by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The amendment implements Texas Education Code, §39.0544.

<rule>

§97.1003. Local Accountability System.

- (a) The local accountability system standards established by the commissioner of education under Texas Education Code (TEC), §39.0544, shall be used by school districts to develop a plan to locally evaluate the performance of their campuses. For the purpose of this section, the term school district includes open-enrollment charter schools.
- (b) A local accountability plan created by a school district must include domain performance ratings assigned by the commissioner under TEC, §39.054, and performance ratings based on locally developed domains or sets of accountability measures.
 - (1) A locally developed domain or set of accountability measures is referred to as a plan component. Plan components must describe each item and the reason for its inclusion in the plan. A school district must assign each component to one of the following five domains: academics, culture and climate, extra- and co-curricular, future-ready learning, and locally determined. The weight of all plan components must equal 100%.
 - (2) Each campus with an approved school district plan is eligible to receive local accountability rating. A campus with an overall state accountability rating of C or higher based on ratings derived from student performance at the campus is eligible to combine an overall local accountability rating with the overall state accountability rating to determine the combined rating.
 - (3) For the purposes of assigning state accountability ratings, a campus that does not serve any grade level for which a State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) examination is administered is paired with a campus in its school district that serves grade levels for which STAAR® examinations are administered. A campus not rated under the state accountability system is not eligible to combine state and local ratings. Local accountability data for a campus without state ratings may be displayed on Texas Education Agency (TEA), school district, and campus websites but will not be combined with state accountability data. The state accountability manual adopted under §97.1001 of this title (relating to Accountability Rating System) provides information about campus ratings and eligibility for applicable years.
 - (4) A school district must create its local accountability plan based on school type. The four school types are elementary school, middle school, high school, and Kindergarten-Grade 12. The plan must include all campuses within a school type. The school district may also request to identify an additional school group within a school type for which to customize its local accountability plan. Otherwise, all campuses within a school type must be evaluated on a common set of components determined by the school district. A school district may also request to identify a campus rated under alternative education accountability provisions as a unique school type.
- (c) A school district may assign weights to each plan component described in subsection (b)(1) of this section, as determined by the district, provided that the plan components must in the aggregate account for no more than 50% of the combined overall performance rating. A local accountability plan may include no fewer than two and no more than ten components weighted between 5% and 60%.
- (d) Each plan component must contain levels of performance that allow for differentiation, with assigned standards for achieving the differentiated levels that are aligned to a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F.
 - (1) In order to provide for the assignment of a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F, a school district must use data collected by the district to calculate the current baseline average. The baseline data

calculated by the school district is used to set standards for each level by setting the average at a C, or mid-level, with the higher A and B grades designating levels considered to be exceptional and good, respectively, and the lower D and F grades designating levels considered to need improvement and be unacceptable, respectively.

- (2) A school district may choose to include a single component with a weight not exceeding 10% with the levels of differentiation based on the face value of the average performance level rather than the average performance level, or baseline, being set at the C or mid-level value.
 - (3) In the case of components where current baseline levels are not used to set the campus rating scale to a C or mid-level value, TEA may require the school district to re-evaluate the inclusion of the component on an annual basis.
- (e) Each plan component measure must meet standards for reliability and validity.
- (1) In terms of specific measures, tests, or ratings, a measure is considered reliable if it delivers consistent results across administrations.
 - (2) In terms of specific measures, tests, or ratings, a measure is considered valid if the resulting outcome represents what the test is designed to measure.
 - (3) Reliability and validity are closely related, and both must be evident for a measure, test, or rating to be included as component outcomes in a local accountability system plan.
- (f) Calculations for each plan component and overall performance ratings must be capable of being audited by a third party.
- (1) A school district must use a one-to-one correspondence when converting campus grades based on plan component measures to a standard scale of 30-100 where A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, and F=30-59.
 - (2) Categorical data, or data not on a continuous scale, must be converted to the standard scale of A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, and F=30-59 by assigning the maximum value for each scaled score interval with the corresponding category used in the campus rating scale.
 - (3) A school district is required to submit a local accountability plan that includes components, domains [component, domain], and overall scaled scores and ratings to TEA on a timeline determined by the commissioner [by the first week of July of the applicable accountability year].
 - (4) All scaled scores and letter grades submitted by a school district are subject to audit. Any data discrepancies or any indication that data have been compromised may result in verification and audit of school district and campus data used to assign local accountability ratings. The audit process may include requests for data used for campus-level calculation of component and domain scaled scores.
 - (5) On an annual basis, TEA will randomly select school districts for local accountability audits, and, for each such audit, TEA will randomly select components for review. Selected school districts must submit the requested data for review within the timeframe specified. A school district must maintain documentation of its local accountability plan, along with all associated data used to assign campus ratings, for two years after the end of the plan implementation period.
 - (6) Responsibility for the accuracy and quality of data used to determine local accountability ratings rests with each school district. Superintendent certification of data accuracy during the ratings submission process shall include an assurance that calculations have been verified to ensure that all data were included as appropriate for all components.
 - (7) An appeal of a local accountability rating may be submitted by the superintendent or chief operating officer once ratings are released. The local accountability appeals timeline follows the appeal deadline dates and processes as described in the state accountability manual adopted under §97.1001 of this title for the applicable year.
- (g) A school district must produce a campus score card and make available on the district website an explanation of the methodology used to assign local accountability performance ratings. The campus score

card shall include, at a minimum, the scaled score and rating for each component and domain along with the overall rating. A link to the local accountability ratings posted by the school district must be provided to TEA and may be included on the agency-developed school report card.

- (h) Ratings may be revised as a result of investigative activities by the commissioner as authorized under TEC, §39.057(d) and (e).