

NBRS 2025 State Nomination Process

State: Texas
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For Exemplary High Performing AND Achievement Gap Closing Schools

Ranking Schools on Student Performance

Describe the general process that will be used to rank schools based on student performance in at least reading (or English language arts) and mathematics by answering the following questions.

1. What measure(s) of student performance on state assessments will be used in the process of ranking schools? *[Check all that apply.]*
 - a. Percentage of students proficient or better
 - b. Scale scores
 - c. Student growth scores
 - d. Other

Explanation (required for “d”) *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

Students proficient or better equals the percentage of students at the Meets Grade Level

2. How will the measures of student performance in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics be combined in order to rank each school? *[Check one.]*
 - a. Schools will be ranked separately on student performance in each subject.
 - b. Student performance in both subjects will be combined and schools will be ranked on the total/average score.
 - c. Student performance in both subjects will be combined with other measures of student performance (e.g., student growth on state assessments, performance on state assessments in other subjects, graduation rates, or other indicators in the state accountability system) and schools will be ranked on the total/average composite score. Describe these other measures below.
 - d. Other

Explanation (required for “c” and “d”) *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

3. How will schools with different grade configurations be ranked? *[Check one.]*

- a. All schools will be ranked together regardless of grade configuration
- b. Schools will be ranked within grade spans (e.g., elementary, middle, high)
[Describe in "Explanation" box below how schools serving multiple spans will be assigned to a single grade span or how their overall rank will be calculated based on their ranks within grade spans.]
- c. Schools will be ranked within individual grades. *[Describe in "Explanation" box below how the overall rank of each school will be calculated based on ranks within grades.]*
- d. Other

Explanation (required for "b", "c", and "d") *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

Excluding Schools

Nominated schools must meet additional requirements (enroll at least 100 students, have state assessment results in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics for at least 10 students in each tested grade, meet the state's performance target requirements for 2023-2024 or the most recent available data, and meet the ten other eligibility requirements listed beginning on page 5 of the Guidance). Describe when schools that do not meet these requirements will be excluded from eligibility for nomination by answering the following questions.

4. When will schools that enroll less than 100 students be excluded? *[Check one.]*

- a. Before schools are ranked
- b. After schools are ranked
- c. Not excluded – state has large percentage of schools with fewer than 100 students enrolled
- d. Other

Explanation (required for "c" and "d") *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

5. When will schools that have state assessment results in reading (or English language arts) or mathematics for less than 10 students in one or more tested grades be excluded? *[Check one.]*

- a. Before schools are ranked
- b. After schools are ranked
- c. Other

Explanation (required for “c”) *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

6. When will schools that have not met the state’s accountability performance targets in the previous year be excluded? *[Check one.]*

- a. Before schools are ranked
- b. After schools are ranked
- c. Other

Explanation (required for “c”) *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

7. When will schools that have not met the ten other eligibility requirements listed on page 6 of the Guidance be excluded? *[Check one.]*

- a. Before schools are ranked
- b. After schools are ranked
- c. Before for some requirements and after for the others
- d. Other

Explanation (required for “c” and “d”) *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

If schools are excluded from eligibility for other reasons, please describe them in the box below. Please include a description of when these exclusions take place—before or after schools are ranked.

Texas will limit the number of Magnet and Early College High Schools nominated by selecting only one of each in each awarding category (Exemplary High Performing and Achievement Gap Closing) for a maximum of four out of the state's 26 nominations. The exclusion will occur after schools are ranked. The highest-ranking Magnet and Early College High School in the top 13 of each awarding category will be nominated, while the others will be excluded from the nomination process. If two Magnet or Early College High Schools tie for the highest composite score and are in the top 13 in one of the awarding categories, then both schools will be awarded. While this would be a rare circumstance, this exception would allow for a maximum of eight Magnet or Early College High School nominations.

Texas will also exclude any Title 1 school with less than 10% of its student population who meet the state's definition of economically disadvantaged. The exclusion will occur after schools are ranked.

Historically Underserved Student Groups

The student performance criteria for nominated schools include the performance of sufficiently large groups of historically underserved students (AKA subgroups) meeting the state’s minimum size requirement for accountability. Describe the historically underserved student groups whose performance will be used to rank schools by answering the following questions.

8. What are the names of the historically underserved student groups whose performance in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics (or on a composite score that includes these two subject areas) will be considered in nominating schools? (These are the groups for which state cut scores and school data are to be provided as requested in Appendix B of the guidance.) *[List each group in the box below and describe how membership is determined for any combined or special subgroups.]*

[Box will expand to accommodate text.]

Subgroup 1 African American student
Subgroup 2 Hispanic student
Subgroup 3 White student
Subgroup 4 Economically Disadvantaged student
Subgroup 5 Students with a disability
Subgroup 6 Emergent Bilingual/English Learners
Subgroup 7 American Indian student
Subgroup 8 Asian student
Subgroup 9 Pacific Islander student
Subgroup 10 Two or More Races student

9. What is the minimum size of school historically underserved student groups for requiring the performance of a school’s group to meet student performance criteria for subgroups? *[Provide minimum size or check one of the two boxes.]*

- a. Minimum number of students
- b. There is no minimum number for a school’s group to be included in the nomination process.
- c. Other

[Explanation (required for “b” and “c”) [Box will expand to accommodate text.]

*25 for academic performance, 10 for graduation rate

10. When will a school’s historically underserved student group that does not meet the minimum size requirement be excluded from the ranking process for that subgroup?

- a. Before schools are ranked
- b. After schools are ranked
- c. Other

X

Explanation (required for “c”) *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

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Graduation Rate and CCR Measure for High Schools

Describe how graduation rates and optional CCR measures used to rank high schools are calculated by answering the following questions.

11. What type of graduation rate will be used? *[Check one.]*

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. 4-year adjusted cohort rate | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. 5-year adjusted cohort rate | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation (required for “c”) [Box will expand to accommodate text.]

The better of the 4- or 5-year adjusted cohort rate

12. What school year will the graduation rate data represent?

13. Is this the most recent year high school for which graduation rates are available?

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation (required for “b”) [Box will expand to accommodate text.]

14. If your state is using optional CCR measures to nominate high schools, please identify or describe the indicators that make up these measures.

[Box will expand to accommodate text.]

1. Meet Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Criteria in ELA/Reading and Mathematics
2. Earn Dual Course Credits
3. Meet Criteria on Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) Examination
4. Earn an Associate’s Degree
5. Complete an OnRamps Dual Enrollment Course
6. Earn an Industry-Based Certification
7. Graduate with Completed Individualized Education Program (IEP)
8. Enlist in the Armed Forces or Texas National Guard
9. Graduate Under an Advanced Degree Plan and be Identified as a Current Special Education Student
10. Earn a Level I or Level II Certificate in any workforce education area

15. If your state is using CCR measures to nominate high schools, how will graduation rate and the measures of CCR be combined in order to rank each high school? *[Check one.]*

- a. CCR measures not used
- b. High schools will be ranked separately on graduation rate and CCR.
- c. Graduation rate and CCR will be combined, and high schools will be ranked on the total/average score.
- d. Graduation rate and CCR will be combined with reading/ELA, math and other measures of student performance in the state accountability system and high schools will be ranked on the total/average composite score. Describe these other measures below.
- e. Other

Explanation (required for “d” and “e”) *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

For Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools

[Check one.]

The state plans to nominate *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools*. [If checked, complete questions 16-21.]

The state does not plan to nominate any *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools*. [If checked, do not complete questions 16-21.]

Ranking Schools on Subgroup Improvement

States that wish to identify *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools* must rank schools on the basis of the improvement in the performance of each subgroup, comparing the results for the most recent school year in which the state assessments were administered and the school year 2-4 years before.¹⁷ Describe how schools will be ranked on improvement in the performance of each subgroup by answering the following questions.

16. From which two school years will state assessment results (and other measures if using a composite score) be used to calculate improvements in subgroup performance?

The most recent school year	2023-2024
The school year 2-4 years before	2021-2022

17. What method will be used to measure improvement in subgroup performance in reading and mathematics (or a composite score)? (See pages 1-2 in Appendix B of the guidance for a description of these methods.) [Check one.]

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. Gap Reduction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Subgroup versus Statewide Improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Subgroup Improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation (required for “d”) [Box will expand to accommodate text.]

¹⁷ For 2025, the most recent school year is 2023-2024. The National Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes that 4 years prior to this would be the 2019-2020 school year when most states suspended or modified their assessment program. Results from 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 may be used as a basis for measuring improvement.

18. When will schools with a historically underserved student group that does not meet the minimum size requirement (see Question 9 above) be excluded from the ranking process for school improvements in the performance of that group?

- a. Before school improvements are ranked
- b. After school improvements are ranked
- c. Other

Explanation (required for “c”) [Box will expand to accommodate text.]

Maintaining Performance Level of All Students

Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools must also not lose ground relative to the statewide performance of all students over the same period that improvements in historically underserved student group performance are calculated. Therefore, the state must also calculate the improvement in performance of a nominated school’s **All Students** group and the improvement in performance of **all public school students statewide** on state assessment results in reading/ELA and math (and other measures if using a composite score). This improvement should be calculated by comparing the results for the most recent school year in which the state assessments were administered and the school year 2-4 years before. Any school whose All Students group has improved less than the statewide performance of all public school students between these two years does not qualify for nomination.

Describe how schools being considered for nomination as an *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School* will be checked to confirm that the performance of their All Students group did not lose ground relative to the statewide performance of all public school students by answering the following questions.

19. Will the difference between the performance of the school’s All Students group and the statewide performance of all public school students statewide be calculated for the most recent school year in which the state assessments were administered and for the school year 2-4 years before (as described in Question 17)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Explanation (required for “b”) [Box will expand to accommodate text.]

20. Will any method other than a simple difference be used to calculate the gap between the performance of a school's All Students group and the statewide performance of all public school students statewide for these two years?

- a. Yes
- b. No

X

Explanation (required for "a") *[Box will expand to accommodate text.]*

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21. Will any schools be considered for nomination as **both** *Exemplary High Performing* and *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing*?

- a. Yes
- b. No

X

If yes, please remember to complete both templates in Appendix B of the nomination guidance for these schools.