




College Station Independent School District

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MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Valerie Jochen, Board President

From: Dr. Clark Ealy, Superintendent of Schools 

Date: December 8, 2016

Subject: Consider approval of a resolution concerning A-F Accountability Rating System for Texas Public Schools

Agenda Item: F-4

Board Priority/
District Goal: Priorities A & B; Goals 1, 2 & 3

Background

The 84th Texas Legislature passed HB 2804 in 2015. This bill in part

- requires the commissioner of education, beginning with the 2017-18 school year, to assign each district and campus an overall performance rating based on an A-F scale
- mandates that the commissioner also assign to each district and campus a separate letter grade for each of the five domains
- requires the letter rating to be assigned by August 15 of each year thereafter
- states that a letter rating of A, B, or C is considered acceptable, and a rating of D or F is considered unacceptable
- prevents districts from receiving an overall or domain rating of A if any campus in the district has received a corresponding domain or overall letter grade of D or F

A-F accountability systems have been tried in at least 16 states with no definitive research suggesting that these systems have improved student performance. Similar to the systems in other states, a majority (55%) of the ratings will be based on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

The design of the STAAAR test seeks to rank order students rather than show mastery of the taught standards. This rank order design makes the results susceptible to non-school influences like poverty.



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A number of districts in Texas, including College Station ISD, have begun community-based accountability systems. These systems seek to hold districts accountable for student performance as well as other metrics important to each community. Accountability to one's students, parents, community and taxpayers is the highest form of accountability.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of College Station Independent School District adopt the resolution calling on the Texas Legislature to repeal the rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts and develop a community-based accountability system that empowers school districts to design their own internal systems of assessment and accountability.