

Overview: What is FAST?

The 2009 Legislature's House Bill 3 directed the Comptroller to "identify school districts and campuses that use resource allocation practices that contribute to high academic achievement and cost-effective operations."¹ In response, the Comptroller's office created the Financial Allocation Study for Texas (FAST) to examine district and campus resource allocation – and the relationship between these allocations and student achievement.

This proved to be a complex task, as many forces influence student learning, including factors both in and outside school. Similarly, the *cost* of education is influenced by many factors, some beyond the districts' control.
























The Comptroller's research team evaluated academic performance and financial data to identify school districts and campuses that produce high academic achievement while maintaining cost-effective operations.

The FAST team produced methods to place Texas campuses and districts on a "level playing field" for comparisons of academic performance and spending. Any such measure must weigh certain factors, such as geography and demographics, which are beyond schools districts' control. The measures of academic growth used in this study control for several of these factors.

FAST Rating

- The review team created a **FAST rating** that integrates the academic progress and spending measures to identify districts responsible for strong and cost-effective academic growth.
- Each district has received a **FAST** rating ranging from one to five stars, with half-star increments (**Exhibit 1**).
- A **five-star district** has a composite progress rating between 80 and 99 and a spending index of "Very Low."
- A **one-star district** has a composite progress rating below 20 and a spending index of "Very High."
- A district with "Very High" spending and a composite progress rating of 80 to 99, and a district with "Very Low" spending and a composite progress percentile below 20, both earn **three-star FAST ratings**.
- This rating does not make any judgment of the relative value of spending versus academic progress, recognizing that different school districts have different priorities and different constraints.

Academic Progress Percentiles + Spending Index = FAST Ratings

		Spending Index				
		“Very High”	“High”	“Average”	“Low”	“Very Low”
Composite Academic Progress Percentile	 80-99	3 STARS 	3½ STARS 	4 STARS 	4½ STARS 	5 STARS 
	 60-79	2½ STARS 	3 STARS 	3½ STARS 	4 STARS 	4½ STARS 
	 40-59	2 STARS 	2½ STARS 	3 STARS 	3½ STARS 	4 STARS 
	 20-39	1½ STARS 	2 STARS 	2½ STARS 	3 STARS 	3½ STARS 
	 LESS THAN 20	1 STAR 	1½ STARS 	2 STARS 	2½ STARS 	3 STARS 

DISTRICT NAME	COUNTY	ENROLLMENT	2013 TEA ACCOUNTABILITY RATING	MATH PROGRESS PERCENTILE	READING PROGRESS PERCENTILE	FAST COMPONENTS				
						COMPOSITE PROGRESS PERCENTILE	+	SPENDING INDEX	=	*FAST RATING
SAN ANGELO ISD	TOM GREEN	14,427	MET STANDARD	62	51	59 ■■■■■	+	VERY HIGH	=	★★★★★
SAN ANTONIO CAN HIGH SCHOOL (C)	BEXAR	435	MET ALTERNATIVE STANDARD	**	**	**	+	AVERAGE	=	**
SAN ANTONIO ISD	BEXAR	54,236	MET STANDARD	23	41	29 ■■■■■	+	VERY HIGH	=	★★★★★
SAN ANTONIO SCHOOL FOR INQUIRY & CREATIVITY (C)	BEXAR	423	MET ALTERNATIVE STANDARD	**	**	**	+	HIGH	=	**
SAN ANTONIO TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY (C)	BEXAR	77	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	**	**	**	+	HIGH	=	**
SAN AUGUSTINE ISD	SAN AUGUSTINE	822	MET STANDARD	15	3	5 ■■■■■	+	LOW	=	★★★★★
SAN BENITO CISD	CAMERON	11,160	MET STANDARD	55	28	40 ■■■■■	+	HIGH	=	★★★★★
SAN DIEGO ISD	DUVAL	1,342	MET STANDARD	23	2	5 ■■■■■	+	LOW	=	★★★★★
SAN ELIZARIO ISD	EL PASO	4,127	MET STANDARD	42	21	27 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SAN FELIPE-DEL RIO CISD	VAL VERDE	10,300	MET STANDARD	32	8	13 ■■■■■	+	VERY HIGH	=	★★★★★
SAN ISIDRO ISD	STARR	263	MET STANDARD	24	82	54 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SAN MARCOS CISD	HAYS	7,509	MET STANDARD	55	25	38 ■■■■■	+	HIGH	=	★★★★★
SAN PERLITA ISD	WILLACY	280	MET STANDARD	83	66	80 ■■■■■	+	LOW	=	★★★★★
SAN SABA ISD	SAN SABA	726	MET STANDARD	65	38	53 ■■■■■	+	HIGH	=	★★★★★
SAN VICENTE ISD	BREWSTER	23	MET STANDARD	**	**	**	+	VERY HIGH	=	**
SANDS CISD	DAWSON	224	MET STANDARD	89	76	89 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SANFORD-FRITCH ISD	HUTCHINSON	850	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	3	19	6 ■■■■■	+	VERY LOW	=	★★★★★
SANGER ISD	DENTON	2,662	MET STANDARD	53	64	61 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SANTA ANNA ISD	COLEMAN	270	MET STANDARD	50	38	43 ■■■■■	+	HIGH	=	★★★★★
SANTA FE ISD	GALVESTON	4,657	MET STANDARD	8	2	2 ■■■■■	+	VERY LOW	=	★★★★★
SANTA GERTRUDIS ISD	KLEBERG	517	MET STANDARD	29	49	37 ■■■■■	+	VERY HIGH	=	★★★★★
SANTA MARIA ISD	CAMERON	729	MET STANDARD	24	1	2 ■■■■■	+	HIGH	=	★★★★★
SANTA ROSA ISD	CAMERON	1,166	MET STANDARD	21	20	16 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SANTO ISD	PALO PINTO	508	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	37	8	14 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SAVOY ISD	FANNIN	271	MET STANDARD	9	91	49 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SCHERTZ-CIBOLO-UNIVERSAL CITY ISD	GUADALUPE	13,540	MET STANDARD	89	74	88 ■■■■■	+	LOW	=	★★★★★
SCHLEICHER ISD	SCHLEICHER	582	MET STANDARD	70	37	56 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION (C)	BEXAR	1,527	MET STANDARD	98	66	95 ■■■■■	+	VERY HIGH	=	★★★★★
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (C)	BEXAR	843	MET STANDARD	22	90	60 ■■■■■	+	LOW	=	★★★★★
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DISCOVERY (C)	BEXAR	910	MET STANDARD	1	31	3 ■■■■■	+	AVERAGE	=	★★★★★
SCHULENBURG ISD	FAYETTE	691	MET STANDARD	38	38	36 ■■■■■	+	LOW	=	★★★★★
SCURRY-ROSSER ISD	KAUFMAN	1,005	MET STANDARD	81	44	67 ■■■■■	+	VERY LOW	=	★★★★★
SEAGRAVES ISD	GAINES	612	MET STANDARD	49	30	36 ■■■■■	+	VERY HIGH	=	★★★★★
SEALY ISD	AUSTIN	2,676	MET STANDARD	81	34	62 ■■■■■	+	LOW	=	★★★★★
SEASHORE MIDDLE ACADEMY (C)	NUECES	433	MET STANDARD	92	78	91 ■■■■■	+	VERY HIGH	=	★★★★★
SEGUIN ISD	GUADALUPE	7,457	MET STANDARD	27	9	12 ■■■■■	+	HIGH	=	★★★★★
SEMINOLE ISD	GAINES	2,630	MET STANDARD	92	33	72 ■■■■■	+	VERY HIGH	=	★★★★★
SER-NINOS CHARTER SCHOOL (C)	HARRIS	954	MET STANDARD	99	96	99 ■■■■■	+	LOW	=	★★★★★

*The FAST Rating is an average of the composite academic progress percentile and the spending index; districts with the lowest spending relative to similar districts and the most academic progress receive the highest scores.

** Insufficient data

COMPOSITE PROGRESS PERCENTILE: 80-99 ■■■■■ 60-79 ■■■■■ 40-59 ■■■■■ 20-39 ■■■■■ LESS THAN 20 ■■■■■