



*FINANCIAL INTEGRITY
RATING SYSTEM OF TEXAS
PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 20, 2026*

Southwest 

Independent School District

What is schools FIRST?



Schools FIRST is the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas

Senate Bill 218 of the 77th Legislature (2001) implemented FIRST. This law requires the financial health of every school district in Texas to be evaluated.

The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school district's financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas School Finance Systems.

School districts are required to hold a public meeting to publicize the district's financial report and rating.

Schools FIRST accountability rating assigns one of the four financial ratings to Texas School Districts.

- Superior (A)
- Above Standard (B)
- Meets Standard (C)
- Substandard Achievement (F)

Southwest ISD Earned **Superior Rating**

Superior Rating 23 Years in a Row

21 Base Indicators



The following 21 criteria were used by TEA to rate school districts. The following are the responses to the questions used to assess the district's financial management condition.

The **2025-2026** Rating is based on School Year **2024-2025** Data.

Southwest ISD Earned a **Superior** rating with a score of **98** out of **100** possible points.

1. Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to TEA on or before February 27, 2026? **Yes, the district submitted the financial report by the deadline.**
2. Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole? **Yes, the district passed this indicator.**
3. Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end? **Yes, the district had no disclosures concerning default of bond indebtedness.**
4. Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System, Texas Workforce Commission, Internal Revenue Service, and other government agencies? **Yes, the district made all payments to these government agencies.**

5. Was the total net position in the governmental activities column in the Statement of Net Position (net of accretion of interest for capital appreciation bonds, net pension liability, and other post-employment benefits) greater than zero? **Ceiling Passed**
6. Was the average change in (assigned and unassigned) fund balances over 3 years less than a 25 percent decrease or did the current year's assigned and unassigned fund balances exceed 75 days of operational expenditures? **Ceiling Passed**

7. Was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the school district sufficient to cover operating expenditures? **Yes, the district cash and current investments in the general fund were sufficient to cover operating expenditures. District scored all ten points.**
8. Was the measure of current assets to current liabilities ratio for the school district sufficient to cover short-term debt? **Yes, the district passed this indicator and scored all ten points.**

9. Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? **Yes, the district passed this indicator and scored all 10 points.**
10. Did the school district average less than a 10 percent variance (90% to 110%) when comparing budgeted revenues to actual revenues for the last 3 fiscal years? **Yes, the district received 10 out of the possible 10 points**
11. Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency? **Yes, the district received 10 of the possible 10 points.**
12. What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value? (This indicator asks about the school district's ability to make debt principal and interest payments) **Yes, the district received 8 of the possible 10 points.**
13. This indicator is not being evaluated.

14. Did the school district not have a 15 percent decline in the students to staff ratio over 3 years (total enrollment to total staff)? If the student enrollment did not decrease, the school district will automatically pass this indicator. **Yes, district received 10 out of 10 points.**
15. Was the school district's actual average daily attendance (ADA) within the allotted range of the district's biennial ADA projection submitted to TEA by the school district? **Yes, district received 5 out of 5 points.**
16. Did the comparison of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to like information in the school district's Annual Financial Report result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function? **District variance was less than 3% therefore district automatically passed.**

17. Did the external independent auditor report that the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and compliance for local, state, or federal funds and free from substantial doubt about the school district's ability to continue as a going concern? **Yes, the district passed this indicator.**
18. Did the external independent auditor indicate the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material noncompliance for grants, contracts, and laws related to local, state, or federal funds? **Yes, the district passed this indicator and received 10 out of 10 points.**
19. Did the school district post the required financial information on its website in accordance with Government Code, Local Government Code, Texas Education Code, Texas Administrative Code and other statutes, laws and rules that were in effect at the school district's fiscal year end? **Yes, the district passed this indicator and received 5 out of 5 points.**

20. Did the school district's administration and school board members discuss any changes and/or impact to local, state, and federal funding at a board meeting within 120 days before the district adopted its budget? **Yes, the district passed this indicator.**
21. Did the school district receive an adjusted repayment schedule for more than one fiscal year for an over-allocation of Foundation School Program (FSP) funds because of a financial hardship? **Ceiling Passed**

Reporting requirements for the financial management report for the School FIRST public hearing are found in **Title 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 109, Budgeting, Accounting, and Auditing, Subchapter AA, Commissioner's Rules Concerning Financial Accountability Rating System, Section 109.1001(q).**

This rule prescribes requirements for the six disclosures described below that are included in the School FIRST financial management report.

Superintendent's Contract



Contract for Dr. Jeanette Ball, Superintendent Emeritus

Southwest ISD website under the Superintendent >> Contract

[Link to Contract](#)

[Superintendent](#) » Contract

Contract

 [Superintendent Contract](#)

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SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

- Superintendent
- Contract
- Senior Staff
- Monday Message

Disclosures: Reimbursements Received by the Superintendent and Board Members



For the Period Ending August 31, 2025	Supt.	Board Member 1	Board Member 2	Board Member 3	Board Member 4	Board Member 5	Board Member 6	Board Member 7
Description of Reimbursements	Jeanette Ball	Jose Diaz	Daniel Carrillo	Sylvester Vasquez	James Gonzalez	Ida Sudolcan	James Sullivan	Florinda Bernal
Meals	1,815.14	140.99	331.48	278.88	138.98	184.83	113.87	126.12
Lodging	925.98	1,577.84	1,559.46	638.92	319.46			319.46
Transportation	1,194.70	977.79	991.73	473.47	483.48	698.21	852.54	902.49
Motor Fuel		85.00						
Other	2,984.46	2,730.00	2,880.00	2,731.46	2,093.92	2,578.38	2,696.88	3,218.38
Total	\$6,920.28	\$5,511.62	\$5,762.67	\$4,122.73	\$3,035.84	\$3,461.42	\$3,663.29	\$4,566.45

All “reimbursements” expenses, regardless of the manner of payment, including direct pay, credit card, cash, and purchase order are to be reported. Items to be reported per category include:

Meals – Meals consumed out of town, and in-district meals at area restaurants (outside of board meetings, excludes catered board meeting meals).

Lodging - Hotel charges.

Transportation - Airfare, car rental (can include fuel on rental, taxis, mileage reimbursements, leased cars, parking and tolls).

Motor fuel – Gasoline.

Other: - Registration fees, telephone/cell phone, internet service, fax machine, and other reimbursements (or on-behalf of) to the superintendent and board member not defined above.

Outside Compensation and/or Fees Received by the Superintendent for Professional Consulting and/or Other Personal Services for the period **ending August 31, 2025.**

None disclosed



Gifts Received by Executive Officers and Board Members (and First Degree Relatives, if any)
(gifts that had an economic value of \$250 or more in the aggregate in the fiscal year)

For the Twelve-
Month Period
Ended
August 31, 2025

		Jose	Daniel	Sylvester	James	Ida	James	Florinda
	Jeanette Ball	Diaz	Carrillo	Vasquez	Gonzalez	Sudolcan	Sullivan	Bernal
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note – An executive officer is defined as the superintendent, unless the board of trustees or the district administration names additional staff under this classification for local officials.



Business Transactions Between School District and Board Members

For the Twelve-
Month Period

Ended
August 31, 2025

	Jose	Daniel	Sylvester	James	Ida	James	Florinda
Jeanette Ball	Diaz	Carrillo	Vasquez	Gonzalez	Sudolcan	Sullivan	Bernal
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note – An executive officer is defined as the superintendent, unless the board of trustees or the district administration names additional staff under this classification for local officials.

Questions or Comments

