



*FINANCIAL INTEGRITY
RATING SYSTEM OF TEXAS
PUBLIC HEARING
DECEMBER 16, 2025*

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 22 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 **2024-2025** Rating is based on School Year **2023-2024** Data.

Southwest ISD Earned a **Superior** rating with a score of **92** out of **100** possible points.

1. Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to TEA within 30 days of the January 28 deadline? **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? **Yes, the district passed this indicator.**
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? **Yes, the district passed this indicator.**
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 ten points.**
10. This indicator is not being evaluated.
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 six of the possible ten 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 eight of the possible ten points.**

13. Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio?

Yes, this indicator measures the percentage of the District's budget that is spent on administration. The District received eight of ten possible points on this indicator.

District Ratio is .0893

FORMULA

	Field	Value
	District Administrative Cost Ratio	0.0893444824
And	ADA	12,595.083
Or	Sparse	false

RESULT DETERMINATION REFERENCE

DETERMINATION OF POINTS				
ADA Size	10	8	6	4
10,000 and Above	≤ 0.0855	$> 0.0855 \leq 0.1105$	$> 0.1105 \leq 0.1355$	$> 0.1355 \leq 0.1605$

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, automatically passed due to an increase in enrollment.**
15. Was the school district's ADA within the allotted range of the district's biennial pupil projection(s) submitted to TEA? This indicator measures how well the district was able to project average daily attendance for the coming biennium for payment purposes. Projected ADA is compared to actual. **Yes, district received five out of five 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 ten out of ten 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 five out of five 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? **The district passed this indicator.**

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 Employee Contract









The **current** contract for Dr. Jeanette Ball, SWISD Superintendent, is posted on the Southwest ISD website under the Superintendent section at https://www.swisd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=2623097&type=d&pREC_ID=2268528

[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, 2024		Board Member 1	Board Member 2	Board Member 3	Board Member 4	Board Member 5	Board Member 6	Board Member 7
Description of Reimbursements	Superintendent	Jose Diaz	Daniel Carrillo	Sylvester Vasquez	James Gonzalez	Ida Sudolcan	James Sullivan	Florinda Bernal
Meals	268.89	291.53	235.42	1,019.29	318.99	109.54	40.56	114.72
Lodging	2,420.82	2,480.68	4,456.67	4,533.92	1,850.43	481.32	481.32	3,924.70
Transportation	1,004.94	1,504.10	1,541.45	877.94	800.68	833.56	478.38	2,105.40
Motor Fuel								
Other	1,847.87	3,128.10	1,811.98	3,135.94	1,976.90	1,419.78	565.00	2,617.55
Total	\$5,542.52	\$7,404.41	\$8,045.52	\$9,567.09	\$4,947.00	\$2,844.20	\$1,565.26	\$8,762.37

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 in Fiscal Year 2024 period **ending August 31, 2024.**

None Reported



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, 2024

		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, 2024

		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.

Questions or Comments

