

What is HB 5?

This is a huge bill that addresses significant new rules for schools regarding new graduation plans and testing requirements, but a lesser known section is all about evaluating student and community engagements efforts at the local level. Key aspects of this section include:

- Passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature and signed by the governor.
- Section 46 requires districts to evaluate themselves and their campuses on how well they're doing with student and community engagement.
- Applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
- Evaluations are developed by a local committee.
- Ratings include: exemplary, recognized, acceptable, or unacceptable.
- Ratings are reported through PEIMs by June 26 and shared publically by August 8, 2014.

Criteria Required at District and Campus Level

There are a total of nine performance categories that must be evaluated. Each of these categories must be given a rating by campus and then for the district overall. These performance categories include:

- Fine arts
- Wellness and physical education
- Community and parental involvement
- The 21st Century Workforce Development program
- The second language acquisition program
- The digital learning environment
- Dropout prevention strategies
- Educational programs for gifted and talented students
- Compliance with statutory reporting and policy requirements

Sharing Your Good News!

While this law does require a new report from districts, it also offers an unusual opportunity for Texas school districts to tout their successes and identify their challenges to the community that they serve.