## Chapter 4 – The Basics: *Determining a Rating*

The previous two chapters described the base indicators and the additional features of the system (Required Improvement, Texas Projection Measure, and the Exceptions Provision). This chapter describes how to use the indicator data results with the additional features to determine campus and district ratings. The ratings for the overwhelming majority of campuses and districts can be determined this way. Some campuses and districts must be evaluated using different procedures. See Chapter 6 – Special Issues and Circumstances for details about which campuses and districts are affected and how they are evaluated.

## WHO IS RATED?

The state accountability system is required to rate all districts and campuses that serve students in grades 1 through 12. The first step is to identify the universe of districts and campuses that can be considered for a rating. For 2009, the universe is determined to be those districts and campuses that reported students in membership in any grades (early education through grade 12) in the fall of the 2008-09 school year. The universe is then divided into those campuses and districts to be evaluated under Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) procedures (see Part 2 – Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) Procedures) and those evaluated using standard procedures. Most districts and campuses identified for standard procedures receive one of the four primary rating labels (Exemplary, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, or Academically Unacceptable). Some receive a label of Not *Rated.* Rating labels and their uses are described below.

Once the universe of standard campuses and districts is established, the next step is to determine if the district or campus has TAKS results on which it can be evaluated. In order to attain one of the four primary rating labels, districts and campuses must have at least one TAKS test result in the accountability subset. The phrase "TAKS test results" refers to TAKS assessments. This includes results on the TAKS (Accommodated) assessments that are part of the accountability calculations for 2009 (see *Table 3* in *Chapter 2*).

An effort is made through the pairing process to supply TAKS results to campuses (with any grades from 1 to 12) with no students in the grades tested so that they can also be evaluated. For more information on pairing see Chapter 6 – Special Issues and Circumstances.

Districts and campuses that have only completion rates, only dropout rates, or only combinations of these two will not receive one of the four primary ratings in 2009. To be eligible to be Exemplary, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, or Academically Unacceptable, TAKS results are required and only TAKS results are required. Districts and campuses need not have data for dropout or completion indicators in order to receive a rating. Performance on any one of the TAKS subjects is sufficient for a rating to be assigned, even if only TAKS (Accommodated) results are available (see *Table 3* in *Chapter 2*).

Though at least one TAKS tester (in the accountability subset) is required to be considered for a rating, some places with very small numbers of total TAKS test results may ultimately receive a *Not Rated* label. The process of Special Analysis is employed when there are very small numbers of total test takers to determine if a rating is appropriate. See Chapter 6 – Special Issues and Circumstances for details about Special Analysis.

## STANDARD RATING LABELS

Rating labels for districts are specified in statute. For 2009, standard campuses and districts will be assigned one of the following rating labels.

Table 5: Standard Rating Labels

	District or Charter Operator Use	Campus Use (non-charter and charter)					
Exemplary Recognized	Used for districts or charter operators	Used for campuses serving grades 1-12 with					
Academically Acceptable	with at least one TAKS test result (in any subject) in the accountability subset. Small numbers subject to	at least one TAKS test result (in any subject) in the accountability subset. Includes campuses with TAKS data due to pairing.					
Academically Unacceptable	Special Analysis.	Small numbers subject to Special Analysis.					
		Used if the campus:					
		<ul> <li>has no students enrolled in grades higher than kindergarten;</li> </ul>					
	Used for districts or charter operators in the unlikely event that there is insufficient data to rate due to no TAKS results in the accountability subset, or due to other highly unusual circumstances.	<ul> <li>has insufficient data to rate due to no TAKS results in the accountability subset;</li> </ul>					
Not Rated: Other		<ul> <li>has insufficient data to rate through Special Analysis due to very small numbers of TAKS results in the accountability subset;</li> </ul>					
	In 2009 this rating may be assigned to districts impacted by Hurricane Ike.	<ul> <li>is a designated Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) or a designated Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP).</li> </ul>					
		<ul> <li>was impacted by Hurricane lke and met provisions outlined in Appendix K.</li> </ul>					
Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues	This rating label is not equivalent to an <i>Academically Unacceptable</i> rating. The Commissioner of Education also has the authority to lower a rating or assign an <i>Academically Unacceptable</i> rating to address problems with the accuracy and/or integrity of performance results that are discovered through accountability system safeguards, Performance-Based Monitoring, or other monitoring and compliance reviews. The accreditation status of a district may also be lowered due to data integrity issues.						
	The district or a campus may receive a rating of <i>Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues</i> , either temporarily or permanently, or the campus or district rating may be lowered due to data integrity problems.						
	See Chapter 16 – Responsibilities and Consequences for more information about the circumstances that trigger this rating label.						

Registered alternative education campuses (AECs) and some charter operators will receive ratings under the AEA procedures. See *Chapter 12 – AEA Ratings* for information on the AEA rating labels.

## NOTIFICATION OF RATINGS (JULY 31, 2009)

Notification of campus and district accountability ratings will occur on July 31, 2009. This consists of release of the campus and district data tables and the district summary reports on TEA's website. Ratings for both standard and AEA procedures will be released simultaneously by this date.

## NOTIFICATION OF RATINGS (LATE OCTOBER, 2009)

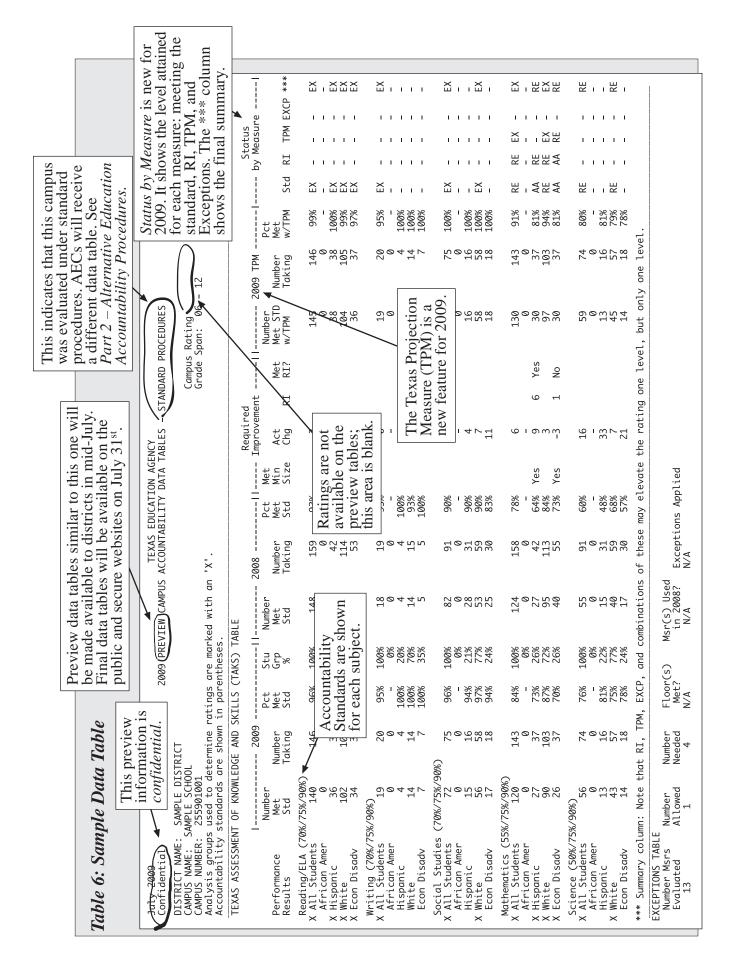
Accountability ratings are finalized when the accountability appeals process is completed. Agency web products related to state accountability (both public and secure sites) will be updated to reflect the outcome of appeals and to add the Gold Performance Acknowledgments information in late October, 2009. See Chapter 19 – Calendar and *Chapter 15 – Appealing the Ratings* for more information.

## USING THE DATA TABLE TO DETERMINE A RATING

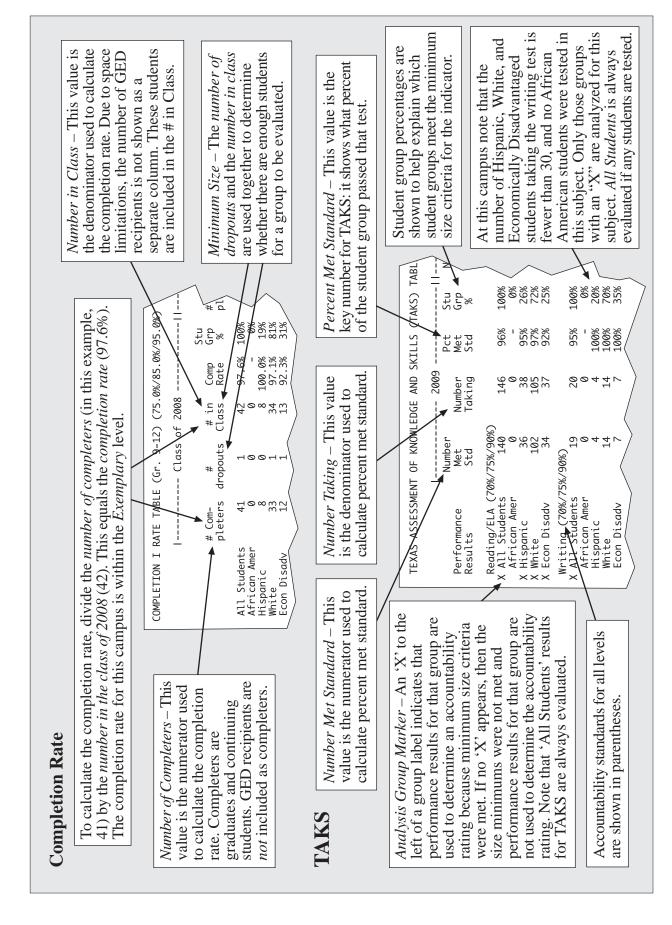
In mid-July, prior to finalizing all computations necessary for accountability ratings, TEA will provide districts with access to preview data tables for the district and each campus within the district through the Texas Education Agency Secure Environment (TEASE) website

These tables will *not* show a rating. However, using the data on the tables and the 2009 Accountability Manual, districts can anticipate their ratings in advance of the TEA ratings release. These preview data tables will contain unmasked data and must be treated as confidential. That is, information that reveals the performance of an individual student may be shown

Sample data tables (unmasked) are excerpted on the following pages to present a step-by-step explanation of how ratings are determined. The design of both the preview and final data tables may vary from the samples shown.

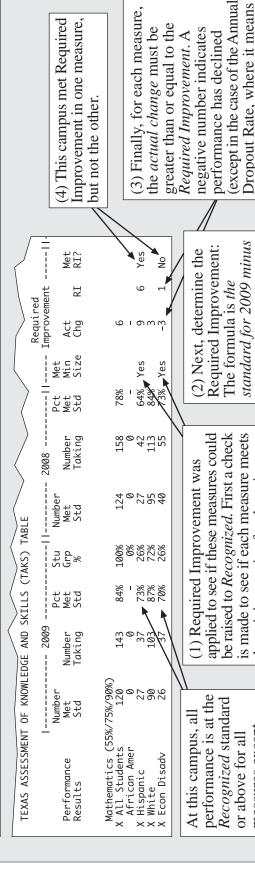


					changes in the dropout definition beginning with the 2005-06 school year.		10.			To calculate the annual dropout rate, divide the number of dropouts by the number of 7th and 8th graders.	Number of 7th and 8th Graders – This value is the denominator used to calculate the annual dropout rate.
E 2			Met RI?		ing wi r no d		Met RI RI?	:	or no data.		
PAGE		Required Improvement	RI		beginn ers, o	Required Improvement				*	
		Required Improvem	Act Chg	-2.4 0.0 -2.9 -7.7-	nition 11 numb	į i	Act Chg	0 000	numbers,	Stu-	1
CEDURES			Met Min Size		ıt defi ın, sma	      -	Met Min Size	:	small	(2.0%)	Rate 9.8% 0.0% 0.0% 1.4%
STANDARD PROCEDURES	12	2	Comp Rate	100.0% - 100.0% 100.0%	e dropou rade spo		Dropout Rate		e span,	1 m	Graders 4 29 11
- STAND	ng: 06 -	5.0%)    Class of 2007	# in Class	29 20 20 5	s in the ue to g	2006-07	# 7-8   Graders	78 22 24 27	to grade		/
AGENCY TABLES	Campus Rating: Grade Span: 06 with an 'X'.	- Class	# Com- pleters	29 20 20 50 50	change ating d	20			due	ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE TABLE	Dropouts
CATION Y DATA	Cam Gra ked wit	5.0%)	Stu Grp # % pl	100% 0% 19% 81% 31%	ificant ility r		# Dropouts	00000	ty rati	COPOUT -I	Amer Amer Sadv
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	atings ( in pare	(75.0%/85.0%/95.0%) 2008	# in Co	42 9 0 8 100 34 9 13 9	be due to significant changes in the dropout oyour accountability rating due to grade span,	(2.0%)	Dropout Rate		_	AN	44150
2009 PREVIEW CAMPUS	CT rmine r shown			10011		E (Gr. 7-8) 2007-08	# 7-8 Graders	77 1 26 50 29	tor you		mpus : than ) for
PREVIEW	DISTRI SCHOOL 1001 to dete rds are	LE (Gr.	# dropouts		ion rat evaluat	ABLE (G				alue	this cal fewer red (5
1 6002	SAMPLE DISTRICT SAMPLE SCHOOL 255901001 s used to determi	RATE TABI	# Com- pleters	41 0 8 33 12	complet canot	RATE TA	# Dropouts	00000	not eva	This v o calcute.	hat at 1 opout, requi
July 2009	DISTRICT NAME: SAMPLE DISTRICT CAMPUS NAME: SAMPLE SCHOOL CAMPUS NUMBER: 255901001 Grade Span: Analysis groups used to determine ratings are marked with an 'X' Accountability standards are shown in parentheses.	COMPLETION I RATE TABLE (Gr. 9-12)	# 0	All Students African Amer Hispanic White Econ Disadv	Decreases in completion rates may Completion data not evaluated for	ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE TABLE (Gr. 7-8)		All Students African Amer Hispanic White Econ Disadv	Annual Dropout Rate	Number of Dropouts – This value is the numerator used to calculate the annual dropout rate.	Minimum Size – Note that at this campus there was only one dropout, fewer than the minimum number required (5) for the indicator to be evaluated.
									Annual	Number, is the nur the annu	Minimum there was the minimum the indic



# Required Improvement

TAKS, Completion, and Dropout Rate - to raise a rating from Academically Unacceptable to Academically Acceptable or from Academically Acceptable to Recognized. All calculations for Required Improvement are done automatically by TEA, using the Campuses and districts may achieve a higher rating using Required Improvement. It can be applied to three base indicators steps shown below.



## **Texas Projection Measure**

improvement).

the campus's performance

the minimum size for the prior year

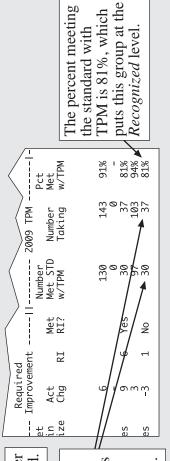
(at least 10 test takers). It did.

TAKS mathematics.

measures except

in 2008, divided by 2.

The Texas Projection Measure (TPM) is new for 2009. After Required Improvement has been evaluated, TPM is applied. Continuing with the sample school used in calculating Required Improvement (above), we focus on the performance of the Economically Disadvantaged students in mathematics. In this example we see that when those students who are projected to meet the TAKS standard with TPM are included, the result is 30 out of 37 students.



### Acceptable for one, and to Recognized for two. However, those two measures are held to Academically Acceptable, since they began at AU, and the additional features may The exception is applied and the **₹**₩**₹**(₹) Campuses or districts may also be able to "gate up" to the next higher rating, even after being evaluated under Required Improvement and TPM, as long as they qualify for the Exceptions Provision. Exceptions can only be used for the TAKS indicator. The \*\*\* Summary column shows the status of each measure after With TPM, the outcomes improve to Academically EXCP TPM, EXCP are applied. campus is rated Recognized. by Measure - Economically Disadvantaged Status TPM (\{\{\\\} **₹**₩ RI ₽¥₽ - ₽ Std 4- 44 A Met w/TPM 82% 85% 75% 82% elevate the rating one level only. Exceptions Applied 500 347 150 0 384 2009 TPM Number Taking Science assume one TAKS measure is at the Academically Acceptable Number Met STD w/TPM if an exception was not used for this measure in 2008, the level. If Pct Met Std for that measure meets the floor, and 410 294 1113 0 314 status of each evaluated TAKS measure, beginning with Met Standard, then after applying Required Improvement, TPM, and Exceptions. Another new feature for 2009, the Status by Measure, shows the After applying both Required Improvement and TPM, Msr(s) Used in 2008? \_\_\_\_\_ S Met RI? 222 campus can use one of the 3 exceptions allowed $\stackrel{\mathsf{9}}{\mathsf{2}}$ Improvement $\Gamma$ Required Floor(s) Met? Act Chg Yes unchanged. Status by Measure Met Min Size shows $\overrightarrow{AU}$ under the $\overrightarrow{RI}$ column. Yes Yes Yes Yes status for these measures is Number Needed After application of RI, the %99 92% 92% %29 Pct Met Std Number Allowed Number Taking 502 348 152 0 2008 **EXCEPTIONS TABLE** 332 232 100 0 169 Number Number Msrs Evaluated Met Std TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TAKS) TABLE 12 100% 69% 30% 77% Stu Grp %0% 20% 20% %99 Pct Met Std In this example, the campus was Acceptable to Recognized. (Note that only one exception is allowed number of measures evaluated.) Acceptable standard, so Status by In this example, performance is allowed up to 3 exceptions to below the 70% Academically Exemplary, regardless of the Measure shows AU under the to move from Recognized to evaluated on 12 assessment -- 2009 Number Taking 500 347 150 measures, and is therefore move from Academically Status by Measure 28/90% 243 243 90 254 Number Met Std STD column. **Exceptions** Reading/ELA (70%/ All Students All Students African Amer Hispanic White Performance Results Econ Disadv $\times \times \times$

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DATA TABLES

The sample shown is of a *preview* data table. These will be made available to districts on the TEASE website in mid-July. Data tables with rating labels will be released on July 31, 2009.

When applicable, messages appear on the data tables to help explain the rating or the data shown. The preview data tables will include messages regarding the following:

- Pairing. Any standard campus with enrollment within grades 1-12, but no students tested on TAKS will be paired for accountability. A message will indicate the campus with which it is paired.
- Special Analysis. Campuses and districts with small numbers of total students tested may be subjected to Special Analysis to determine the rating. A message will state if Special Analysis was used. This message does not necessarily mean a rating will be changed from the outcome indicated by the data. See Chapter 6 – Special Issues and Circumstances for details.

The following are additional items not present on the preview that will be added to the data tables on July 31<sup>st</sup> or to the updated tables released in October.

- Accountability Ratings. (A list of possible rating labels is shown in Table 5 in this chapter.)
- Additional Messages. These messages appear in the top section of the data table when applicable:
  - o Rating Change due to Appeal. (campus or district)
  - o Rating is not based on data shown in the table. (campus or district)
  - o District rating limited to *Academically Acceptable* due to having one or more Academically Unacceptable campuses. (district only)
  - o District rating limited to Academically Acceptable due to exceeding threshold for underreported students. (district only)
  - o Rating changed after [date] due to Data Integrity Issues. (campus or district)
  - Special Analysis used. Exception applied for [subject student group] (campus or district)
  - o Rating is not based on data shown in the table (Hurricane Ike provision used). (campus or district)

## MASKED DATA

Performance posted to the public website is masked when there are fewer than five students in the denominator of the measure. Additionally, all performance at or near 0% or 100% is masked. It is necessary to mask data that potentially reveals the performance of every student to be in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

### SYSTEM SUMMARY

The following tables summarize the 2009 system. *Table 7* provides an overview of the requirements for each rating level. A district or campus must meet the criteria for every applicable measure to be rated Exemplary, Recognized, or Academically Acceptable; otherwise the next lower rating is assigned.

To receive a rating of *Recognized* or *Exemplary*, districts can have no *Academically* Unacceptable campuses. In addition, Recognized and Exemplary districts must not have excessive underreported students. See Chapter 3 for details.

Table 8 is a single-page overview that provides details of the 2009 system, with the base indicators listed as columns. For each of the indicators, users can see brief definitions, the rounding methodology, the accountability subset methodology, the standards, minimum size criteria, subjects and student groups used, application of Required Improvement, the Texas Projection Measure and the Exceptions Provision.

Table 7: Requirements for Each Rating Category

	Academically Acceptable		Exemplary		
Base Indicators		-			
TAKS (2008-09)*  • All students and each student group meeting minimum size:  • African American  • Hispanic  • White  • Econ. Disadv.  * TAKS (Accommodated) included for some grades and subjects. See Table 3.	Meets each standard:  Reading/ELA 70%  Writing	Meets <b>75%</b> standard for each subject <b>OR</b> Meets <b>70%</b> floor and Required Improvement <b>OR</b> Meets standard with TPM	Meets <b>90</b> % standard for each subject <b>OR</b> Meets standard with TPM		
Completion Rate I (Class of 2008)  • All students and each student group meeting minimum size:  • African American  • Hispanic  • White  • Econ. Disadv.	Meets <b>75.0%</b> standard <b>OR</b> Meets Required Improvement	Meets <b>85.0%</b> standard OR Meets floor of <b>75.0%</b> and Required Improvement	Meets <b>95.0%</b> standard		
Annual Dropout Rate (2007-08)  • All students and each student group meeting minimum size:  • African American  • Hispanic  • White  • Econ. Disadv.	Meets <b>2.0</b> % standard <b>OR</b> Meets Required Improvement	Meets <b>2.0</b> % standard <b>OR</b> Meets Required Improvement	Meets <b>2.0%</b> standard <b>OR</b> Meets Required Improvement		
Additional Provisions					
Exceptions (See Chapter 3 for more details.)	May be applied if district/campus would be <i>AU</i> due to not meeting <i>AA</i> criteria.	May be applied if district/campus would be AA due to not meeting Recognized criteria.	May be applied if district/campus would be Recognized due to not meeting Exemplary criteria.		
Check for Academically Unacceptable Campuses (District only)	Does not apply to Academically Acceptable districts.	A district with a campus rated Academically Unacceptable cannot be rated Recognized.	A district with a campus rated Academically Unacceptable cannot be rated Exemplary.		
Check for Underreported Students (District only)	Does not apply to Academically Acceptable districts.	A district that underreports more than <b>150</b> students or more than <b>5.0%</b> of its prior year students cannot be rated <i>Recognized</i> .			
Hurricane Ike	ampuses, if the 2009 rating ating received in 2008, the erated <i>Not Rated: Other</i> .	n/a			

Table 8: Overview of 2009 System Components

	TAKS	TAKS (Acco	mmodated)	Completion Rate I	Dropout Rate		
Definition	Results (gr. 3-11) summed across grades by subject. ELA & reading results are combined. Cumulative results used for first two administrations of gr. 3, 5, & 8 reading; gr. 5 & 8 math.	Included in TAKS f subjects and grade "Subjects" below.		Grads & continuers expressed as a % of total students in the class.	Gr. 7 and 8 dropouts as a % of students who were in attendance any time during the prior school year.		
Rounding	Whole	Numbers		One D	ecimal		
Standards		jects	EX: ≥ 95.0% RE: ≥ 85.0% AA: ≥ 75.0%	EX: ≤ 2.0% RE: ≤ 2.0% AA: ≤ 2.0%			
Mobility Adjustment (Accountability Subset)	District ratings: results for studer and tested in the same district. Campus ratings: results for stude fall and tested in the same camp	ents enrolled in the	None				
Subjects	Reading/ELAgr. 3-11 Writinggr. 4, 7 Mathematicsgr. 3-11 Social Studiesgr. 8, 10, 11 Sciencegr. 5, 8, 10, 11	ELA	N/A gr. 11 .gr. 8, 10, 11	N/A			
Student Groups	African His V	udent <u>Grps:</u> I American spanic Vhite . Disadv.	All & Student Grps: African American Hispanic White Econ. Disadv.				
Minimum Size Criteria for All Students	No minimum size requirement—	-special analysis for	≥ 5 dropouts  AND ≥ 10 students				
Minimum Size Criteria for Groups	30/	10%/50	≥ 5 dropouts <i>AND</i> 30/10%/50				
Required Improve	ement (RI)						
Actual Chg	2009 minus 2	008 performance		Class of 2008 rate minus Class of 2007 rate	2007-08 rate minus 2006-07 rate		
RI		Gain needed	to reach standard i	in 2 years			
Use		As a gate up to <i>Acad</i>	lemically Acceptabl	le or Recognized			
Floor	≥ 70% for <i>Recognized</i> , no flo	oor for Academically	Acceptable	≥ 75.0% for Recognized	No floor		
Minimum Size		ze in current year an s tested in prior year		Meets min. size current year and has ≥ 10 in prior year class.	Meets min. size current year and has ≥ 10 7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students the prior year.		
TPM	Applies to TAP						
Definition	Estimate of whether a student is grade. "% Passing w/ TPM" include		TPM is Not Applicable to Completion Rate or				
Subjects	All except: gr. 7 Writ; gr. 11 All	Subjects, gr. 8 Scien	ce (until 2010)	- Dropout Rate			
Use	As a gate up to Acceptable	e, Recognized, or Ex	1				
Exceptions	Applies to TAP	(S measures only					
Use	As a gate up to Acceptable	le, Recognized, or Ex	emplary				
Floor	Academically Acceptable	Exemplary	- Exceptions are Not Applicable to Completion Rate or Dropout Rate				
R/W/SS	65%	70%					
M/Sc	50% / 45%	70%					
Number of Exceptions Allowed	1 – 4 measures evaluated		If 10 or more measures, one exception allowed	, allo S. Diopout Nato			