

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA**

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> Special |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|

- (A) Report Only Recognition

Presenter(s): JORGE BARRERA, BOARD PRESIDENT

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

PUBLIC HEARING ON "SCHOOL FIRST" RATING (FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SYSTEM OF TEXAS)

- (B) Action Item

Presenter(s):

Briefly describe the action required.

- (C) **Funding source: Identify the source of funds if any are required.**

- (D) **Clarification: Explain any question or issues that might be raised regarding this item.**

SEE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM.

TO: Samuel Mijares, Superintendent

FROM: Ismael Mijares, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Finance

DATE: October 8, 2024

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING ON "SCHOOL FIRST" RATING

The Public Hearing on the "School First" Rating shall be conducted as follows:

1. The Board President shall request at the beginning of the meeting that all person who desire to speak on the "School First" Rating sign up on the sheet provided.
2. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the board may establish time limits for speakers.
3. Speakers shall confine their remarks to the "School First" Rating.
4. No officer or employee of the district shall be required to respond to questions from speakers at the meeting.



TO: Samuel Mijares, Superintendent

FROM: Ismael Mijares, Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance

DATE: September 23, 2024

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING ON “SCHOOL FIRST” RATING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON “SCHOOL FIRST” RATING

Digitally signed by Ismael Mijares
Date: 2024.09.23 14:46:32 -05'00'

As per 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §109.1001(q), the school district must prepare and distribute the district’s *Financial Management Performance Rating*, or the “**School FIRST**” Rating (*Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas*) provided by the *Texas Education Agency (TEA)* and provide the public with the opportunity to comment on the report at a public hearing. The *Rating* is based on a comparison of indicators established by the *Commissioner of Education*.

As a requirement, the first *Notice* for this *Public Hearing* may not be placed more than 30 days or less than 10 days prior to the hearing. The district has met this requirement.

The financial health of every school district in Texas is evaluated as part of the *Financial Accountability Rating System* known as “**School FIRST**” (*Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas*). This System was created to help improve the management of school districts’ financial resources and evaluate their financial performance.

School districts are *rated* based on the financial data they submit to the *Texas Education Agency (TEA)* and according to defined indicators established by the *Commissioner of Education*. The *Rating Categories* are:

- “Superior,”
- “Above Standard”
- “Meets Standard”
- “Substandard Achievement”

Eagle Pass I.S.D. earned a rating of “**Superior**”, which demonstrates the quality of Eagle Pass I.S.D.’s financial management and reporting system.

Attached are the district’s *Financial Management Performance Ratings* provided by the *Texas Education Agency (TEA)* for the current and previous years. The district’s *Scores* and *Rating Criteria* shall be made available to the public as required. This information will be made available to the public at the *Public Hearing* in the *October Regular Board Meeting*, at the *District Service Center*, and will be posted on the district’s *Web Site*.



To the Administrator Addressed

Commissioner Mike Morath

1701 North Congress Avenue • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • tea.texas.gov

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| DATE: | August 8, 2024 |
| SUBJECT: | Preliminary 2023–2024 FIRST Ratings |
| CATEGORY: | Accreditation Information |
| NEXT STEPS: | Share with appropriate staff |

Texas’s school financial accountability rating system, known as the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST), provides accountability for Texas public schools on the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve these practices. The purpose of this letter is to inform Texas public school systems that their preliminary 2023–2024 FIRST rating is now available online. To access your school system’s FIRST rating, click the [Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas](#) link. Then, click the appropriate link as follows:

- School districts should use the School District FIRST Ratings link.
- Charter schools should use the Charter FIRST Ratings link.

Basis for FIRST Rating

Your school system’s rating is based on an analysis of the school system’s financial data for fiscal year 2023 (the fiscal period ended June 30, 2023, or August 31, 2023, depending on the ending date of your school system’s fiscal year). TEA determined your school system’s rating using the financial indicators specified in:

- [19 Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) §109.1001\(e\)\(8\)](#) for school districts; and
- [19 TAC §109.1001\(f\)\(8\)](#) or [19 TAC §109.1001\(g\)\(2\)](#) for charter schools, depending upon the type of charter school operated.

Please carefully review your school system’s preliminary FIRST rating and the data associated with each of the indicators.

Opportunity for Appeal

If your school system wishes to appeal an adverse issue it identifies in the preliminary rating, your school system may submit a written appeal with supporting evidence to the TEA Financial Compliance Division. For the appeal to be considered, TEA must receive it by **September 9, 2024**. Send your appeal and supporting documentation to the following email address: FinancialAccountability@tea.texas.gov.

Please note, all appeal requests, including supporting documentation, must be submitted via email to FinancialAccountability@tea.texas.gov on or before September 9, 2024. Appeals and supporting documentation that are not submitted to the Financial Accountability email address by the required deadline will not be considered or processed.

Please see [19 TAC §109.1001\(n\)](#) for the rules regarding the filing of an appeal. As stated in that section, TEA will consider only an appeal that would result in a change to your school system’s rating. **If no appeal is submitted by your school system, your school system’s preliminary rating becomes final on the 31st day after the preliminary ratings are released (September 10, 2024).**

RATING YEAR **2023-2024** DISTRICT NUMBER **district #** [Select An Option](#) [Help](#) [Home](#)



Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas

2023-2024 RATINGS BASED ON SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023 DATA - DISTRICT STATUS DETAIL

| | |
|--|---|
| Name: EAGLE PASS ISD(159901) | Publication Level 1: 8/8/2024 6:33:40 PM |
| Status: Passed | Publication Level 2: 8/8/2024 6:33:40 PM |
| Rating: A = Superior Achievement | Last Updated: 8/8/2024 6:33:40 PM |
| District Score: 98 | Passing Score: 70 |

| # | Indicator Description | Updated | Score |
|---|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to the TEA within 30 days of the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending on the school district’s fiscal year end date of June 30 or August 31, respectively? | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Yes |
| 2 | Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole? (The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) defines unmodified opinion. The external independent auditor determines if there was an unmodified opinion.) | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Yes |
| 3 | Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end? (If the school district was in default in a prior fiscal year, an exemption applies in following years if the school district is current on its forbearance or payment plan with the lender and the payments are made on schedule for the fiscal year being rated. Also exempted are technical defaults that are not related to monetary defaults. A technical default is a failure to uphold the terms of a debt covenant, contract, or master promissory note even though payments to the lender, trust, or sinking fund are current. A debt agreement is a legal agreement between a debtor (= person, company, etc. that owes money) and their creditors, which includes a plan for paying back the debt.) | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Yes |
| 4 | Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other government agencies? (If the school district received a warrant hold and the warrant hold was not cleared within 30 days from the date the warrant hold was issued, the school district is considered to not have made timely payments and will fail critical indicator 4. If the school district was issued a warrant hold, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 95 points, A = Superior Achievement, even if the issue surrounding the initial warrant hold was resolved and cleared within 30 days.) | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Yes Ceiling Passed |
| | | | 1 Multiplier Sum |
| 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? (If it is not, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement, unless the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership. If the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, the | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Ceiling Passed |

| | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u> | | |
| 6 | <u>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? (If the school district fails indicator 6, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Ceiling Passed |
| 7 | <u>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 (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | 10 |
| 8 | <u>Was the measure of current assets to current liabilities ratio for the school district sufficient to cover short-term debt? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | 10 |
| 9 | <u>Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? If not, was the school district's number of days of cash on hand greater than or equal to 60 days? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | 10 |
| 10 | This indicator is not being evaluated. | | 10 |
| 11 | <u>Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency? (If the school district's increase of students in membership over 5 years was 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, then the school district passes this indicator.)</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | 10 |
| 12 | <u>What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value?</u> | 8/8/2024 3:11:36 PM | 10 |
| 13 | <u>Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u> | 6/22/2024 10:28:28 AM | 8 |
| 14 | <u>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.</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | 10 |
| 15 | This indicator is not being evaluated. | | 5 |
| 16 | <u>Did the comparison of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to like information in the school district's AFR result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function? (If the school district fails indicator 16, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Ceiling Passed |
| 17 | <u>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? (The AICPA defines material weakness.) (If the school district fails indicator 17, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement.)</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Ceiling Passed |
| 18 | <u>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? (The AICPA defines material noncompliance.)</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | 10 |
| 19 | <u>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?</u> | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | 5 |

| | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 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? | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Ceiling Passed |
| 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? | 4/19/2024 6:26:21 PM | Ceiling Passed |
| | | | 98 Weighted Sum |
| | | | 1 Multiplier Sum |
| | | | (100 Ceiling) |
| | | | 98 Score |

DETERMINATION OF RATING

| | | |
|--|---|--------|
| A. | Did the school district fail any of the critical indicators 1, 2, 3, or 4? If so, the school district's rating is F for Substandard Achievement regardless of points earned. | |
| B. | Determine the rating by the applicable number of points. | |
| | A = Superior Achievement | 90-100 |
| | B = Above Standard Achievement | 80-89 |
| | C = Meets Standard Achievement | 70-79 |
| | F = Substandard Achievement | <70 |
| <p>No Rating = A school district receiving territory that annexes with a school district ordered by the commissioner under TEC 13.054, or consolidation under Subchapter H, Chapter 41. No rating will be issued for the school district receiving territory until the third year after the annexation/consolidation.</p> <p>The school district receives an F if it scores below the minimum passing score, if it failed any critical indicator 1, 2, 3, or 4, if the AFR or the data were not both complete, or if either the AFR or the data were not submitted on time for FIRST analysis.</p> | | |

CEILING INDICATORS

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p>Did the school district meet the criteria for any of the following ceiling indicators 4, 6, 16, 17, 20, or 21? If so, the school district's applicable maximum points and rating are disclosed below. Please note, an F = Substandard Achievement Rating supersedes any rating earned as the result of the school district meeting the criteria of a ceiling indicator.</p> | | |
| Determination of rating based on meeting ceiling criteria. | Maximum Points | Maximum Rating |
| Indicator 4 (Timely Payments) - School district was issued a warrant hold. | 95 | A = Superior Achievement |
| Indicator 6 (Average Change in Fund Balance) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> . | 89 | B = Above Standard Achievement |

| | | |
|---|----|--------------------------------|
| Indicator 16 (PEIMS to AFR) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> . | 89 | B = Above Standard Achievement |
| Indicator 17 (Material Weaknesses) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> . | 79 | C = Meets Standard Achievement |
| Indicator 20 (Property Values and Tax Discussion) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> . | 89 | B = Above Standard Achievement |
| Indicator 21 (FSP Repayment Plan) - Response to indicator is <i>Yes</i> . | 70 | C = Meets Standard Achievement |

Home Page: [Financial Compliance | Texas Education Agency](#) | Send comments or suggestions to FinancialAccountability@tea.texas.gov

THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
 1701 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE · AUSTIN, TEXAS, 78701 · (512) 463-9734

FIRST 5.15.6.0

RATING YEAR **2022-2023** DISTRICT NUMBER **district #** [Select An Option](#) [Help](#) [Home](#)



Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas

2022-2023 RATINGS BASED ON SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022 DATA - DISTRICT STATUS DETAIL

| | |
|--|--|
| Name: EAGLE PASS ISD(159901) | Publication Level 1: 8/4/2023 12:02:16 PM |
| Status: Passed | Publication Level 2: 8/7/2023 3:01:39 PM |
| Rating: A = Superior Achievement | Last Updated: 8/7/2023 3:01:39 PM |
| District Score: 98 | Passing Score: 70 |

| # | Indicator Description | Updated | Score |
|---|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | <u>Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to the TEA within 30 days of the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending on the school district’s fiscal year end date of June 30 or August 31, respectively?</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | Yes |
| 2 | <u>Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole? (The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) defines unmodified opinion. The external independent auditor determines if there was an unmodified opinion.)</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | Yes |
| 3 | <u>Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end? (If the school district was in default in a prior fiscal year, an exemption applies in following years if the school district is current on its forbearance or payment plan with the lender and the payments are made on schedule for the fiscal year being rated. Also exempted are technical defaults that are not related to monetary defaults. A technical default is a failure to uphold the terms of a debt covenant, contract, or master promissory note even though payments to the lender, trust, or sinking fund are current. A debt agreement is a legal agreement between a debtor (= person, company, etc. that owes money) and their creditors, which includes a plan for paying back the debt.)</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | Yes |
| 4 | <u>Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other government agencies? (If the school district received a warrant hold and the warrant hold was not cleared within 30 days from the date the warrant hold was issued, the school district is considered to not have made timely payments and will fail critical indicator 4. If the school district was issued a warrant hold, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 95 points, A = Superior Achievement, even if the issue surrounding the initial warrant hold was resolved and cleared within 30 days.)</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | Yes Ceiling Passed |
| 5 | This indicator is not being evaluated. | | |
| | | | 1 Multiplier Sum |
| 6 | <u>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? (If the school district fails indicator 6, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | Ceiling Passed |

| | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 7 | <u>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 (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | 10 |
| 8 | <u>Was the measure of current assets to current liabilities ratio for the school district sufficient to cover short-term debt? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | 10 |
| 9 | <u>Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? If not, was the school district's number of days of cash on hand greater than or equal to 60 days? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | 10 |
| 10 | This indicator is not being evaluated. | | 10 |
| 11 | <u>Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency? (If the school district's increase of students in membership over 5 years was 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, then the school district passes this indicator.)</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | 10 |
| 12 | <u>What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value?</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | 10 |
| 13 | <u>Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | 8 |
| 14 | This indicator is not being evaluated. | | 10 |
| 15 | This indicator is not being evaluated. | | 5 |
| 16 | <u>Did the comparison of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to like information in the school district's AFR result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function? (If the school district fails indicator 16, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | Ceiling Passed |
| 17 | <u>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? (The AICPA defines material weakness.) (If the school district fails indicator 17, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement.)</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | Ceiling Passed |
| 18 | <u>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? (The AICPA defines material noncompliance.)</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | 10 |
| 19 | <u>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?</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | 5 |
| 20 | <u>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?</u> | 7/13/2023 6:19:27 PM | Ceiling Passed |
| | | | 98 Weighted Sum |
| | | | 1 Multiplier Sum |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| | (100 Ceiling) |
| | 98 Score |

DETERMINATION OF RATING

| | | |
|--|---|--------|
| A. | Did the school district fail any of the critical indicators 1, 2, 3, or 4? If so, the school district's rating is F for Substandard Achievement regardless of points earned. | |
| B. | Determine the rating by the applicable number of points. | |
| | A = Superior Achievement | 90-100 |
| | B = Above Standard Achievement | 80-89 |
| | C = Meets Standard Achievement | 70-79 |
| | F = Substandard Achievement | <70 |
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CEILING INDICATORS

Did the school district meet the criteria for any of the following **ceiling indicators** 4, 6, 16, 17, 20, or 21? If so, the school district's applicable maximum points and rating are disclosed below. Please note, an F = Substandard Achievement Rating supersedes any rating earned as the result of the school district meeting the criteria of a ceiling indicator.

| Determination of rating based on meeting ceiling criteria. | Maximum Points | Maximum Rating |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Indicator 4 (Timely Payments) - School district was issued a warrant hold. | 95 | A = Superior Achievement |
| Indicator 6 (Average Change in Fund Balance) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> . | 89 | B = Above Standard Achievem |
| Indicator 16 (PEIMS to AFR) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> . | 89 | B = Above Standard Achievem |
| Indicator 17 (Material Weaknesses) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> . | 79 | C = Meets Standard Achievem |
| Indicator 20 (Property Values and Tax Discussion) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> . | 89 | B = Above Standard Achievement |
| Indicator 21 (FSP Repayment Plan) - Response to indicator is <i>Yes</i> . | 70 | C = Meets Standard Achievement |

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THE **TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY**
 1701 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE · AUSTIN, TEXAS, 78701 · (512) 463-9734

FIRST 5.15.7.0