



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: January 23, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: Consider a resolution opposing the “A-F” accountability system.

PRESENTER: Dr. Derek Citty, Superintendent

ALIGNS TO BOARD GOAL(S): All

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: House Bill 2804, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature in 2015, made significant changes to the state public school accountability system, including the creation of A-F rating labels for district and campus performance.

The 2018 ratings will be in the form of A-F letter grades assigned for each district and campus in five domains, which include:

- I: Meeting standards at satisfactory and college readiness levels on STAAR.
- II: STAAR annual improvement at satisfactory and college readiness levels.
- III: Reducing “academic achievement differentials” from different racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds; that is, closing the distance to a predetermined target for specific student groups.
- IV: Academic attainments (other than STAAR) that differ by campus level, including drop out and graduation rates, CTE sequence completion, AP course completion, TSI benchmarks and more for high schools; attendance, dropout rates and high school, college and career preparatory instruction for middle schools; and attendance for elementary schools.
- V: Three self-selected categories of the Community and Student Engagement ratings.

Like all the other measures used to evaluate schools, the A-F ratings offer only a portion of the total picture of a school or district. The various domains are weighted as follows in the original HB 2804:

- 55 percent of the A-F rating will be based on the first three domains, which are drawn from the results on STAAR exams and recognized substitutes for STAAR end-of-course tests.
- 35 percent will be based on post-secondary readiness measures represented by Domain IV; cohort graduation rates (when applicable) account for 10 percent of the final rating.

- 10 percent will be based on the locally determined engagement ratings in Domain V.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION(S): Organizations, legislators, teacher groups, administrative organizations and superintendents across the state have all spoken out against A-F ratings, citing the incomplete picture represented and the high correlation between a school or district's ratings and poverty levels.

This system is generally viewed as an attempt by elements of state government who have been unsuccessful to point toward true "failures" of Texas public schools to gerrymander a system in which areas of "failure" are artificially created and are not linked to the reality of success found in our schools across the state. Specifically, the release of the preliminary A-F rating system immediately prior to the legislative session points toward this being a political ploy and not one with the best interests of children at heart.

The resolution before Trustees was developed by the Texas Association of School Administrators and, if approved, will be included with hundreds of others District's resolutions. These resolutions will be presented to legislators as a show of unity against this unfortunate and ill-advised statute.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no known impact to the 2016-17 budget related to consideration of this item.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMENDATION: Administration recommends Trustees approve this resolution as presented.