



2024-2025 FIRST Report

Based upon 2023-2024 Financial Data



Venus Independent School District

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Venus ISD
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Venus, Tx 76084
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To the Venus ISD Board of Trustees and the taxpayers for Venus ISD:

The 2025 School FIRST Rating is being presented for your information. FIRST stands for 'Financial Integrity Ratings System of Texas.' It is the annual rating performed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to test the financial performance of school districts as required by Title 19, Texas Administration Code, Section 109. The District is required to hold a public meeting, which can be part of a regular school board meeting, to distribute a financial management report that explains the district's performance under each of the 20 indicators and the resulting district's rating. The 2025 rating is based upon analysis of staff and student data reporting for the 2023-2024 school year, along with financial data for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

For this year's rating, 20 indicators are used to score the districts. A points total in the 90 to 100 range will receive an A= Superior designation. A points total in the 80 to 89 range receives a B = Above Standard designation. A points total in the 70 to 79 range receive a C = Meets Standard while any lesser total is F = Substandard Achievement.

Maintaining the financial health of the District and modeling accountability is imperative. Therefore, we are pleased to report that Venus Independent School District received an "A", or "Superior Achievement" rating from the Texas Education Agency regarding financial operations. Additionally, the District received a score of 98 points.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

DeAnne Page

Chief Financial Officer
Venus Independent School District
DeAnne.Page@venusisd.net

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background Information

This is the report of the School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system. The School FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, as follows:

A for Superior Achievement

B for Above Standard Achievement

C for Meets Standard Achievement

F for Substandard Achievement

Reporting Requirement

Under School FIRST, every school district in Texas is required to prepare an annual financial management report that includes the following:

A. The district's financial management performance rating provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) based on its comparison with indicators established by the Commissioner of Education for the State's new Financial Accountability System;

B. The district's financial management performance under each indicator for the current and previous years' financial accountability ratings;

C. Additional information required by the Commissioner of Education

1. A copy of the superintendent's current employment contract. The school district may publish the superintendent's employment contract on the district's Internet site in lieu of publication in the annual financial management report. This must disclose all compensation and benefits paid to the superintendent;

2. A summary schedule for the fiscal year (12-month period) of total reimbursements received by the superintendent and each board member, including transactions resulting from use of the school district's credit card(s), debit card(s), store-value card(s) and any other instruments to cover expenses incurred by the superintendent and each board member. The summary schedule shall separately report reimbursements for meals, lodging, transportation, motor fuel, and other items (the summary schedule of total reimbursements is not to include reimbursements for supplies and materials that were purchased for the operation of the district);

3. A summary schedule for the fiscal year of the dollar amount of compensation and/or fees received by the superintendent from another school district or any other outside entity in exchange for professional consulting and/or other personal services. The schedule shall separately report the amount received from each entity;

4. A summary schedule for the fiscal year of the total dollar amount by the executive officers and board members of gifts that had an economic value of \$250 or more in the aggregate in the fiscal year. This reporting requirement only applies to gifts received by the school district's executive officers and board members (and their immediate family as described by Government Code, Chapter 573, Subchapter B, as a person related to another person within the first degree by consanguinity or affinity) from an outside entity that received payments from the school district in the prior fiscal year, and gifts from competing vendors that were not awarded contracts in the prior fiscal year. This reporting requirement does not apply to reimbursement of travel-related expenses by an outside entity when the purpose of the travel is to investigate or explore matters directly related to the duties of an executive officer or board member, or matters related to attendance at education-related conferences and seminars whose primary purpose is to provide continuing education (this exclusion does not apply to trips for entertainment related purposes or pleasure trips). This reporting requirement excludes an individual gift or a series of gifts from a single outside entity that had an aggregate economic value of less than \$250 per executive officer or board member;

5. A summary schedule for the fiscal year of the dollar amount by board members for the aggregate amount of business transactions with the school district. This reporting requirement is not to duplicate the items disclosed in the summary schedule of reimbursements received by board members; and

6. Additional information that the district's board of trustees deems useful. Refer to the Commissioner's Rules Concerning the Financial Accountability Rating System (Chapter 109, Subchapter AA) for more information.

Determination of School District Rating	
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.	
Determine the rating by the applicable number of points.	Points
A = Superior Achievement	90 through 100
B = Above Standard Achievement	80 through 89
C = Meets Standard Achievement	70 through 79
F = Substandard Achievement <i>(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.)</i>	0 through 69
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 49. No rating will be issued for the school district receiving territory until the third year after the	

Reporting, Notices and Public Meetings

The Board of Trustees will publish an annual report describing the financial management performance of the district. The report must include the information provided by the Texas Education Agency and any supplemental information as may be determined by the local Board of Trustees. A copy of the report is available, upon request, from the Finance Department and is available on the district's website.

As required by State law, the Board of Trustees shall hold a public meeting within two months of receiving the School FIRST ratings. Notice of the meeting to discuss the school financial accountability rating must be published in a local newspaper. The notice must be no more than thirty days, or less than ten days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

The District has complied with the public hearing notifications in the local newspaper. The date of publication appeared on November 4. The public meeting was held in conjunction with the regularly called Board of Trustees meeting on November 13, 2023.

User: DeAnne Page
User Role: District

RATING YEAR 2024-2025

DISTRICT NUMBER district #

Select An Option

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Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas

2024-2025 RATINGS BASED ON SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024 DATA - DISTRICT STATUS DETAIL

Name: VENUS ISD(126908)	Publication Level 1: 8/8/2025 12:54:09 PM
Status: Passed	Publication Level 2: 8/8/2025 4:49:42 PM
Rating: A = Superior Achievement	Last Updated: 8/8/2025 4:49:42 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 PM	Yes Ceiling Passed
			1 Multiplier Sum
5	<u>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</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 PM	Ceiling Passed

	<u>membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, the 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 PM	10
12	<u>What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value?</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 PM	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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 PM	10
15	<u>Was the school district's ADA within the allotted range of the district's biennial pupil projection(s) submitted to TEA? If the district did not submit pupil projections to TEA, did it certify TEA's projections? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 PM	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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 PM	Ceiling Passed
21	<u>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?</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:52 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
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. 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.		

CEILING INDICATORS

Did the school district meet the criteria for any of the following ceiling indicators 4, 5, 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 5 (Total Net Position) - Negative total net position and do not have 7% or more or 1,000 or more increase in growth in students in membership over 5 years.	79	C = Meets Standard 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 Yes.	70	C = Meets Standard Achievement

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THE **TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY**

1701 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE • AUSTIN, TEXAS, 78701 • (512) 463-9734

FIRST 5.15.11.0

School FIRST Annual Financial Management Report

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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). Effective 8/1/2018. The template has been established to help the districts in gathering their data and presenting it at their School FIRST hearing. The template may not be all inclusive.

Superintendent’s Current Employment Contract

A copy of the superintendent's current employment contract at the time of the School FIRST hearing is to be provided. In lieu of publication in the annual School FIRST financial management report, the school district may chose to publish the superintendent's employment contract on the school district's Internet site. If published on the Internet, the contract is to remain accessible for twelve months.

Reimbursements Received by the Superintendent and Board Members

For the Twelve-Month Period								
Ended August 31, 2024								
Description of Reimbursements	Superintendent	Board Member 1	Board Member 2	Board Member 3	Board Member 4	Board Member 5	Board Member 6	Board Member 7
Meals	494 \$		82 \$		82	82		82
Lodging	472.01							
Transportation	142.96							
Motor Fuel	313.3							
Other								
Total	\$1,422.27	\$0.00	\$82.00	\$0.00	\$82.00	\$82.00	\$82.00	\$82.00

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

For the Twelve-Month Period
Ended August 31, 2025
Name(s) of Entity(ies).

Amount Received
\$

Total \$0.00

Compensation does not include business revenues generated from a family business (farming, ranching, etc.) that has no relation to school district business.

**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 June 30 or August 31, 20XX

Superintendent	Board Member 1	Board Member 2	Board Member 3	Board Member 4	Board Member 5	Board Member 6	Board Member 7
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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

Board Member 1	Board Member 2	Board Member 3	Board Member 4	Board Member 5	Board Member 6	Board Member 7
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Note - The summary amounts reported under this disclosure are not to duplicate the items disclosed in the summary schedule of reimbursements received by board members.