



On Friday, Jan. 6, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is set to release preliminary A–F ratings for districts and campuses under the proposed new accountability system. These ratings are based on data from the 2015–16 school year as required by HB 2804 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

The mission of Kennedale Independent School District, as an educational leader in partnership with families and the community, is to provide opportunities for academic excellence in a safe and supportive environment for all of our students. KISD upholds the belief that schools and districts should be held accountable for providing the best education possible for our students. However, we encourage parents and community members to use caution when interpreting these preliminary A–F ratings for the following reasons:

The A-F rating system is still in development. The TEA is expected to make many changes to the system before the first official ratings are released in August 2018. The current ratings are based on incomplete data from the 2015–16 school year and do not include several components that will be included in the ratings in 2018.

This proposed A–F grading system appears simplistic upon first glance. It is to be noted, however, that the calculations needed to determine each letter grade are extremely complicated and lack transparency. Therefore, it is recommended that parents and community members keep in mind the fact that this proposed A–F rating system is far from finalized and we anticipate many changes to come.

Ratings for Domains I, II, and III are based solely on STAAR results. No school’s performance can accurately be reduced to a letter grade based on one test, given on one day. Several problems with administration of STAAR across the state in 2015–2016 have raised questions about the accuracy of scores and validity of test results.

Ratings for Domain IV for elementary schools are based solely on the percentage of students who are absent more than 10 percent of the time. Attendance at schools with smaller student group populations may be negatively impacted by only a few students who do not attend regularly. Because elementary students usually depend on family members or guardians for transportation to get to school each day, our schools are being rated on a factor that may be beyond their control.

Kennedale ISD and all KISD campuses received the highest rating (Met Standard) on the current accountability system. In addition, a total of 8 academic distinctions were earned within the district. We commend our students and staff for their performance and work in achieving these ratings and academic distinctions.

Regardless of the new system, we set and maintain high expectations in Kennedale ISD. KISD will use the new system as one of many components of our goal setting for future growth. In fact, plans are already in place that continue to make us an innovative and progressive district that is responsive to the needs of our students.

We will continue to monitor changes in the state’s accountability system for our students and our schools, and we will keep you apprised as updates are available. KISD will work with the state and the legislature to encourage improvement of the process and participate in any way possible. We are extremely proud of our Kennedale ISD students, staff and community.

#WeAreTeamKennedaleISD