



2019-20 Schools FIRST Rating

(2018-19 District Status)

October 19, 2020

Schools FIRST Overview

- What is Schools FIRST?
 - Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas), is 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 Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance and transparency in the management of school district financial resources

Overview Continued

- Under School FIRST, every school district in Texas is required to prepare an annual financial management report that includes the following:
 - ✓ The district's financial management performance rating comparing the current and previous year
 - ✓ Additional information required by the Commissioner of Education in 2007 (Title 19, TAC, Chapter 109)
 - ❖ A copy of the Superintendent's current contract if not posted on the District website
 - ❖ Summary financial disclosures pertaining to the Superintendent and the School Board

Overview Continued

- 2019-20 ratings are based on 2018-19 data and are published on TEA's website
- The most current rating system was authorized by HB 5 in the 83rd Legislative Session in 2013 and implemented by TEA in August 2015
- Current rating system is based on 15 indicators and assigns an A through F rating determined by points earned on indicators 6 - 15

	<u>Points</u>
✓ A = Superior Achievement	90-100
✓ B = Above Standard Achievement	80-89
✓ C = Meets Standard Achievement	60-79
✓ F = Substandard Achievement	< 60
- However, if the District answers **No** to indicators 1, 2.A, 3, 4 or 5, the District's rating is **F** for **Substandard Achievement**, regardless of points earned
- Within two months of receiving the final financial accountability rating school districts are required to hold a public hearing for Schools FIRST and distribute the financial management report to attendees

Report Contents

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- Prior Year Comparison
 - 2018-19 Status
 - 2017-18 Status
- How Ratings are Assessed
- Glossary of Terms
- Required Disclosures
 - Current Superintendent's Contract (published on District website)
 - Reimbursements Received by Superintendent and Board Members for Fiscal Year 2019
 - Outside Compensation and/or Fees Received by the Superintendent for Professional Consulting and/or Other Personal Services for Fiscal Year 2019
 - Gifts Received by the Executive Officer(s) and Board Members (and first degree relatives, if any) in Fiscal Year 2019
 - Business Transactions Between School District and Board Members for Fiscal Year 2019
 - Other Information

So How Did We Do?

- “Yes” on Indicators 1, 2.A, 3, 4 and 5
- Scored 96 Out of a Possible 100 Points on Indicators 6 - 15
- Achieved Highest Rating Possible Under Current Schools FIRST System

A = Superior

Looking Forward

- Schools FIRST Rating System will Include Changes in the Commissioner's Rule that were Finalized in August 2018
 - Changes will be implemented by TEA beginning with rating year 2020-21 and will be based primarily on data from fiscal year 2020
 - Rating year 2020-21 will be based on 20 indicators as opposed to 15 indicators in previous years
 - During the phase-in period, the Schools FIRST System has separate worksheets for rating years 2018-19 and 2019-20 as compared to subsequent years
 - The new School FIRST System will assign the same A through F rating as before



**Questions
or
Comments?**