



2020-21 Schools FIRST Rating

(2019-20 District Status)

November 15, 2021

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 provided by TEA
 - ✓ The district's current financial management performance rating compared to the previous year's rating
 - ✓ 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

- 2020-21 ratings are based on 2019-20 data and are published on TEA's website
- The most current rating system has been updated to include changes in the Commissioner's Rule for School FIRST that were implemented by TEA beginning with ratings year 2020-21 based on data from fiscal year 2020.
- 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

Overview Continued

- Current rating system is based on 20 indicators and assigns an A through F rating determined by points earned on indicators 7 – 15, 18 & 19

	<u>Points</u>
✓ A = Superior Achievement	90-100
✓ B = Above Standard Achievement	80-89
✓ C = Meets Standard Achievement	70-79
✓ F = Substandard Achievement	< 70

- However, if the District answers **No** to indicators 1, 2, 3, or 4, the District's rating is **F** for **Substandard Achievement**, regardless of points earned

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 - Gifts Received by the Executive Officer(s) and Board Members (and first degree relatives, if any) in Fiscal Year 2020
 - Business Transactions Between School District and Board Members for Fiscal Year 2020
 - Other Information

So How Did We Do?

- “Yes” on Indicators 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Scored 96 Out of a Possible 100 Points on Indicators 7 – 15, 18, 19
- Achieved Highest Rating Possible Under Current Schools FIRST System

A = Superior



**Questions
or
Comments?**