



NEWS

Texas
Education
Agency

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<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/comm/page1.html>

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Ninety-nine percent of Texas school districts earn full accreditation status under new system

AUSTIN – About 99 percent of Texas school districts today earned full accreditation status under a classification system that examines both the academic and financial health of school systems.

“The accreditation status will give taxpayers a quick indication of how well a school district is educating children and managing money. The vast majority of our school districts earned full accreditation status because they are doing a good job serving their students and handling the public’s money,” said Commissioner of Education Robert Scott.

The new system was authorized by the Texas Legislature in 2006 to reflect broad-based district performance related to academic, financial and compliance issues.

Scott said 1,018 of the state’s 1,031 independent school districts earned accredited status. Eleven school districts received the next lower status, which is called Accredited-Warned, and the accreditation status of two districts was left pending because of ongoing investigations.

The 11 districts that received an Accredited-Warned label earned this lower status because they either:

- Were rated *Academically Unacceptable* in 2006 and 2007 in the state’s accountability system;
- Received a rating of Substandard Achievement or Suspended–Data Quality in the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) in 2006 and 2007; or
- During the 2006 and 2007 rating years, earned an *Academically Unacceptable* rating one year and a Substandard Achievement or Suspended-Data Quality rating in FIRST one year.

The Texas Education Agency has the authority to lower accreditation status for a variety of other reasons such as failure to provide accurate financial or assessment data and failure to comply with data reporting requirements. However, no district has received a lower accreditation status for these reasons to date.

“The most common reasons that a district received an Accredited-Warned status were poor performance in the state accountability system or a negative fund balance,” Scott said.

Under this system, the status categories for districts are: Accredited, Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, or Not Accredited-Revoked. Once a district receives a Not Accredited-Revoked status, it is no longer a Texas public school district. Accreditation status can be left pending if an investigation is under way in a district.

The commissioner has broad authority to impose an array of sanctions against any district that receives an Accredited-Warned status. Along with taking the corrective actions already

required under the state's accountability system or School FIRST system, a district that receives this designation must notify students' parents and property owners in the district of the lowered accreditation status.

The commissioner will review actions already under way to correct deficiencies before deciding whether to impose additional sanctions. Other sanctions, which can be found in Chapter 39.131 of the Texas Education Code (<http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/ed.toc.htm>), can include preparing a corrective action plan or assigning a monitor or conservator to the district.

Additional information about the accreditation system, including the status for each district and an explanation of each status category, is available at:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/accredstatus/>.

A list of districts that received Accredited-Warned or a pending accreditation status is attached.

**2007-2008 District Accreditation Statuses:
Accredited-Warned or Pending**

DISTRICT	NAME	REGION	2006 FIRST RATING	2006 ACCT RATING	2007 FIRST RATING	2007 ACCT RATING	2007-2008 ACCREDITATION STATUS	REASON FOR STATUS
239903	BURTON ISD	06	Superior Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Superior Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Accredited-Warned	2006 Accountability Rating, 2007 Accountability Rating
109902	BYNUM ISD	12	Substandard Achievement	Recognized	Substandard Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Accredited-Warned	2006 FIRST Rating, 2007 FIRST Rating
113902	GRAPELAND ISD	06	Superior Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Superior Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Accredited-Warned	2006 Accountability Rating, 2007 Accountability Rating
109907	ITASCA ISD	12	Superior Achievement	Recognized	Superior Achievement	Recognized	Pending	Ongoing Investigative Activities [19 TAC §97.1055(a)(6)]
079908	KENDLETON ISD	04	Above Standard Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Superior Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Accredited-Warned	2006 Accountability Rating, 2007 Accountability Rating
022902	MARATHON ISD	18	Substandard Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Substandard Achievement	Recognized	Accredited-Warned	2006 FIRST Rating, 2007 FIRST Rating, 2006 Accountability Rating
094903	NAVARRO ISD	13	Substandard Achievement	Recognized	Substandard Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Accredited-Warned	2006 FIRST Rating, 2007 FIRST Rating
101909	NORTH FOREST ISD	04	Above Standard Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Above Standard Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Pending	Ongoing Investigative Activities [19 TAC §97.1055(a)(6)]
042905	PANTHER CREEK CONS ISD	15	Substandard Achievement	Recognized	Substandard Achievement	Recognized	Accredited-Warned	2006 FIRST Rating, 2007 FIRST Rating
222901	TERRELL COUNTY ISD	18	Substandard Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Substandard Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Accredited-Warned	2006 FIRST Rating, 2007 FIRST Rating
111903	TOLAR ISD	11	Substandard Achievement	Recognized	Substandard Achievement	Recognized	Accredited-Warned	2006 FIRST Rating, 2007 FIRST Rating
049908	WALNUT BEND ISD	11	Superior Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Superior Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	Accredited-Warned	2006 Accountability Rating, 2007 Accountability Rating
181906	WEST ORANGE-COVE CONS ISD	05	Substandard Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Substandard Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Accredited-Warned	2006 FIRST Rating, 2007 FIRST Rating