

children  
at Risk

Texas Public School  
Rankings Methodology

CHILDREN AT RISK aims to help parents, educators, and community members understand how their schools are performing and spark dialogue on the quality of public education across Texas.

To meet this goal, CHILDREN AT RISK has ranked Texas public schools for the past 12 years based on school performance, student growth, college readiness, and more.

CHILDREN AT RISK ranks all elementary and middle schools across 3 main areas and all high schools across 4 main areas.

I

II

III

IV

ELEMENTARY + MIDDLE SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOLS

**STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT**



**ACHIEVEMENT  
+ POVERTY**



**STUDENT  
GROWTH**



**COLLEGE  
READINESS**



# How CHILDREN AT RISK grades schools:



Elem & Middle = 33%  
High = 25%

I

## Student Achievement

How students do on state standardized tests (STAAR)

Elem & Middle = 33%  
High = 25%

II

## Achievement + Poverty

How a school compares in test scores to schools with similar levels of poverty

Elem & Middle = 33%  
High = 25%

III

## Student Growth

How students improve on their STAAR tests in a school year

Elem & Middle = 0%  
High = 25%

IV

## College Readiness

How many high school students are graduating on time and participating in other college readiness activities

# I- Student Achievement:

TEA uses STAAR exam results to understand how many students at each school are meeting certain benchmarks.



## Does not meet

Students are unlikely to succeed in the next grade without significant academic intervention / do not demonstrate basic understanding of knowledge and skills

## Approaches

Students are likely to succeed in the next grade with targeted academic intervention / generally demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and skills in familiar situations

## Meets

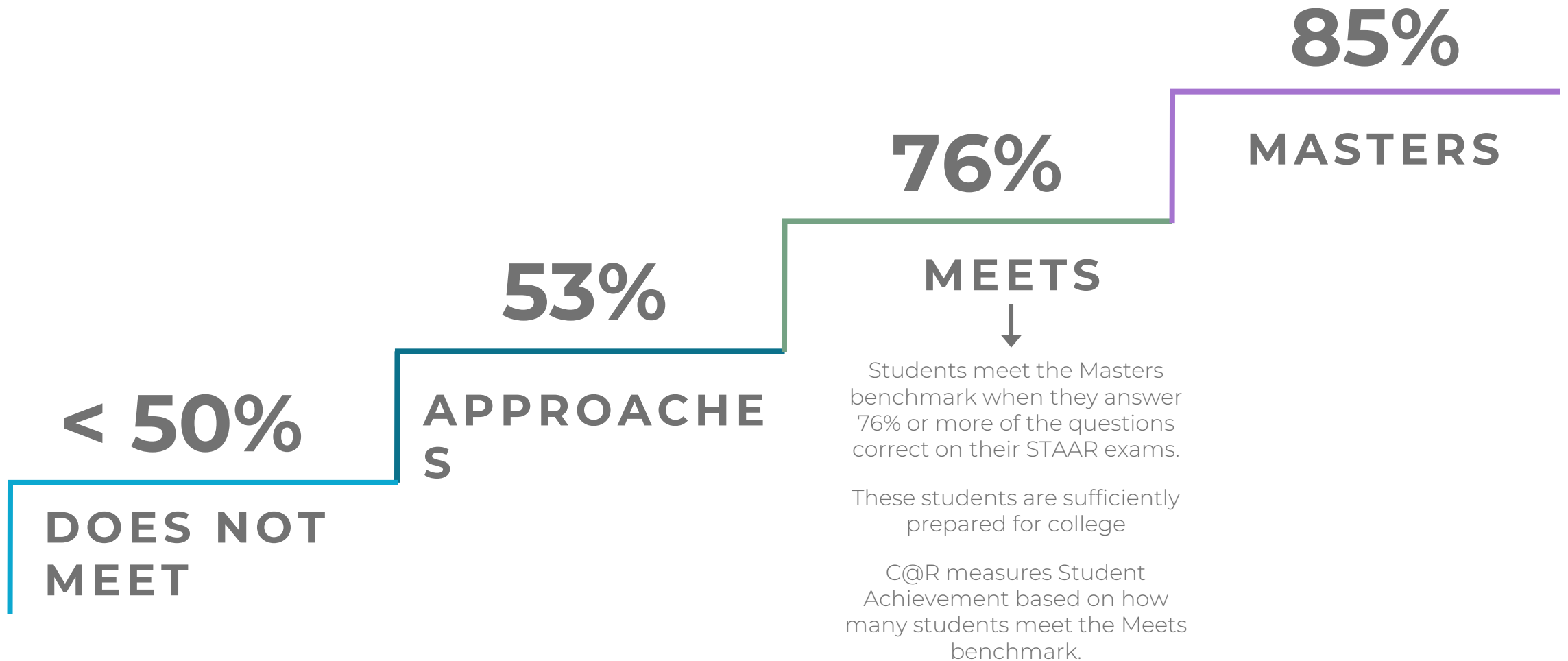
Students have high likelihood of success in the next grade but may still some intervention / have ability to think critically and apply skills / "sufficiently prepared" for success after high school

## Masters

Students expected to succeed in the next grade with no intervention / have ability to think critically and apply skills in unfamiliar situations / "well prepared" for success after high school

# I- Student Achievement:

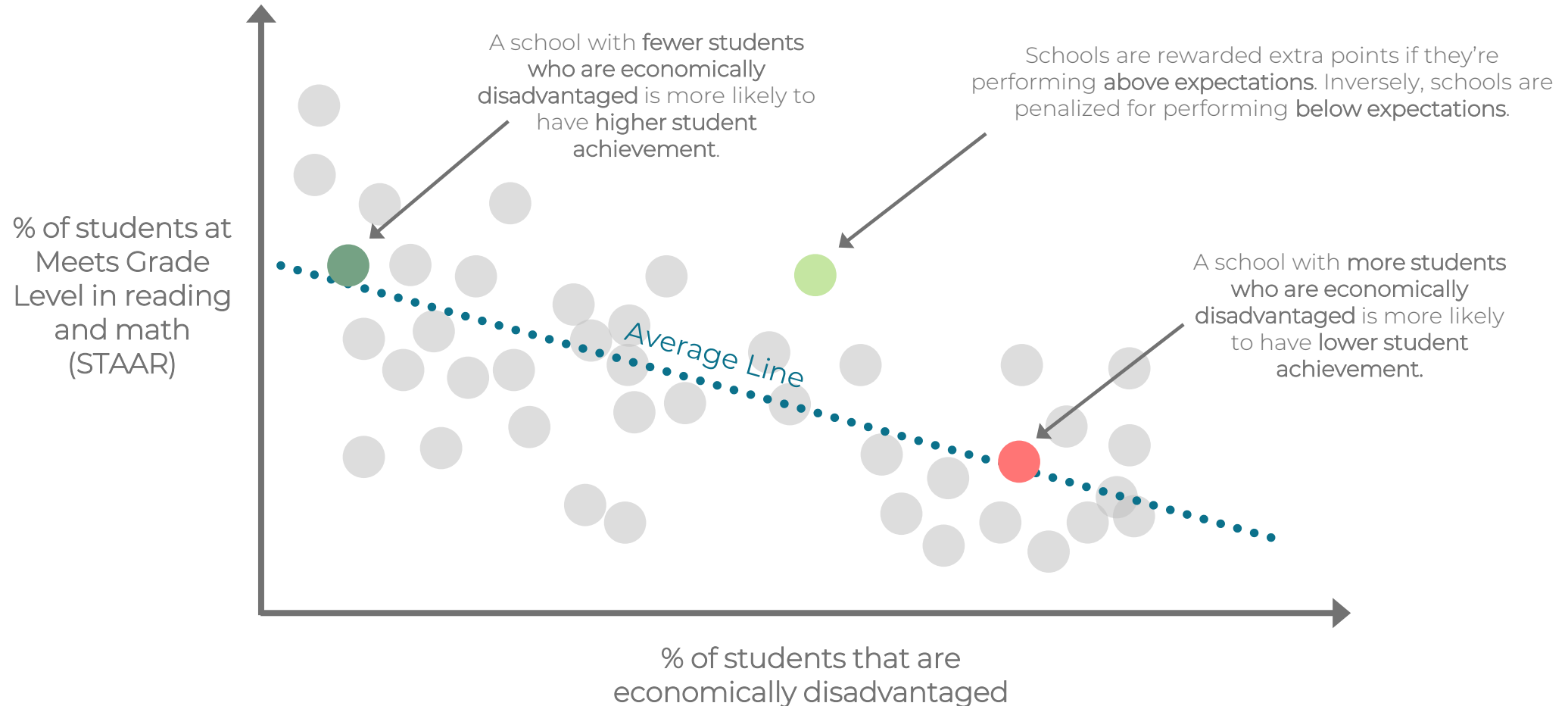
Student performance on STAAR exams



# II- Campus Performance:

Compares schools with similar levels of poverty

Students in **poverty** are more likely to face challenges in completing their education compared to their wealthier peers. Schools that successfully serve students in poverty and address these challenges deserve special recognition.

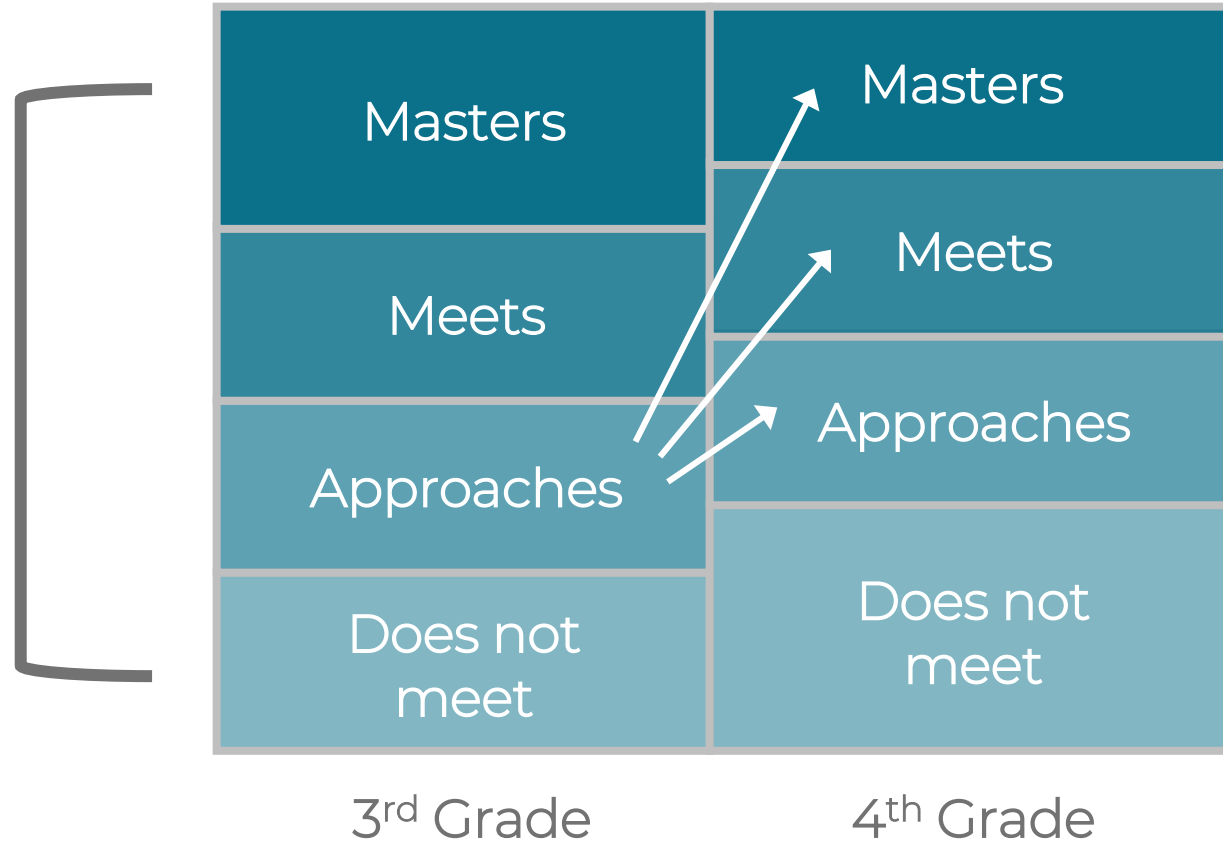


# III- Student Growth:

How much students improve on STAAR exams over one school year

Student Growth looks at how students are improving over time on their STAAR exams.

C@R measures Student Growth based on how much a school's students improve year to year on their exams.





# IV- College Readiness:

Evaluates how well schools are preparing their students for college

C@R thinks every student should have the opportunity to be successful in college or a career of choice.

To account for this, high schools are also evaluated on how they prepare students for college.

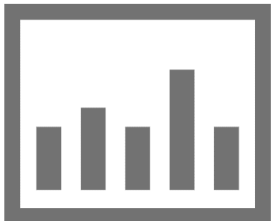
## COLLEGE READINESS SCORE

- 60%** C@R Graduation Rate – the best of the 4, 5, or 6 year graduation rates at a school
- 10%** How many students take the SAT/ACT
- 10%** How many students take AP/IB exams
- 10%** % of test takers at a school that pass the AP/IB exams
- 5%** Average SAT total score
- 5%** Average ACT composite score

How CHILDREN AT RISK assigns final letter grades to schools:

I

**STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT**



II

**ACHIEVEMENT  
+ POVERTY**



III

**STUDENT  
GROWTH**



IV

**COLLEGE  
READINESS**



**C@R School Grade**

Questions or comments?

Please email [SchoolRankings@childrenatrisk.org](mailto:SchoolRankings@childrenatrisk.org)

To see the full version of this methodology,  
[click here.](#)

To see analyses from the 2019 School Rankings,  
[click here.](#)