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**

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

**ACHIEVEMENT + POVERTY**

**STUDENT GROWTH**

**COLLEGE READINESS**

**TEXAS SCHOOL GUIDE**
How CHILDREN AT RISK grades schools:

I

Student Achievement
How students do on state standardized tests (STAAR)

II

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

III

Student Growth
How students improve on their STAAR tests in a school year

IV

College Readiness
How many high school students are graduating on time and participating in other college readiness activities
TEA uses STAAR exam results to understand how many students at each school are meeting certain benchmarks.

**I- Student Achievement:**

**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

*Note: Student Achievement Index accounts for substitute exams for districts who are able to supply needed information. Please see full methodology for more information.*
I- Student Achievement:
Student performance on STAAR exams

- < 50%
  - Does Not Meet

- 53%
  - Approaches

- 76%
  - Meets
    - Students meet the Masters benchmark when they answer 76% or more of the questions correct on their STAAR exams.
    - These students are sufficiently prepared for college.
    - C@R measures Student Achievement based on how many students meet the Meets benchmark.

- 85%
  - Masters
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.

A school with fewer students who are economically disadvantaged is more likely to have higher student achievement.

A school with more students who are economically disadvantaged is more likely to have lower student achievement.

Schools are rewarded extra points if they’re performing above expectations. Inversely, schools are penalized for performing below expectations.

Note: Campus Performance Index accounts for substitute exams for districts who are able to supply needed information. Please see full methodology for more information.
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  II  III  IV

STUDENT + ACHIEVEMENT + POVERTY + STUDENT + COLLEGE

GROWTH

C@R School Grade
Questions or comments?
Please email SchoolRankings@childrenatrisk.org

To see the full version of this methodology,

**click here.**

To see analyses from the 2019 School Rankings,

**click here.**