Texas Public Schools: Triumphing Over Adversity

State of Texas Public Schools

children at Risk
*Speaking Out + Driving Change for Children*

2022-23
School Rankings

Executive Summary

Since 2005, CHILDREN AT RISK has been at the forefront of providing a comprehensive understanding of Texas public schools. As we celebrate 19 years of rankings, CHILDREN AT RISK remains committed to its advocacy for pro-public education policies in Texas. We champion the tireless efforts of educators, applaud the resilience of students, and encourage robust support from the community. We recognize the indispensable role of collaboration among parents, educators, policymakers, and the community at large.

Texas ranks 38th in the nation for per-pupil funding, leading to public schools operating in a complex finances system with resource constraints in classrooms and schools relying heavily on local property taxes. Since the 2019-2020 school year, the state has kept its support for local public schools, called the basic allotment, at $6,160 per student. This amount hasn't been adjusted for inflation, which means it should have been $7,075 per student. Due to this, there's been a shortfall of nearly $4 billion in state aid over the past two academic years.

For the past three years, federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) dollars provided a temporary solution to address some of the funding gaps in Texas public schools. ESSER funding was designed to help schools respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. While ESSER funds did offer a temporary boost, it's important to note that they are not a permanent solution to the underlying issues in public education funding. These funds are one-time allocations with specific ties to pandemic-related challenges. They are not sufficient to address the broader, long-term funding disparities, especially those related to the basic allotment and the ongoing need for increased per-pupil spending. Long-term investment in education is essential to ensure that schools have the necessary resources to provide quality education, attract and retain qualified educators, and meet the diverse needs of students.

Improving education for all students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, involves investing in and strengthening the public education system. This includes addressing funding disparities, supporting teacher professional development, and implementing targeted interventions to meet the needs of diverse student populations. Rather than diverting funds through voucher programs, Texas should focus on policies that enhance the quality and accessibility of public education for all students.
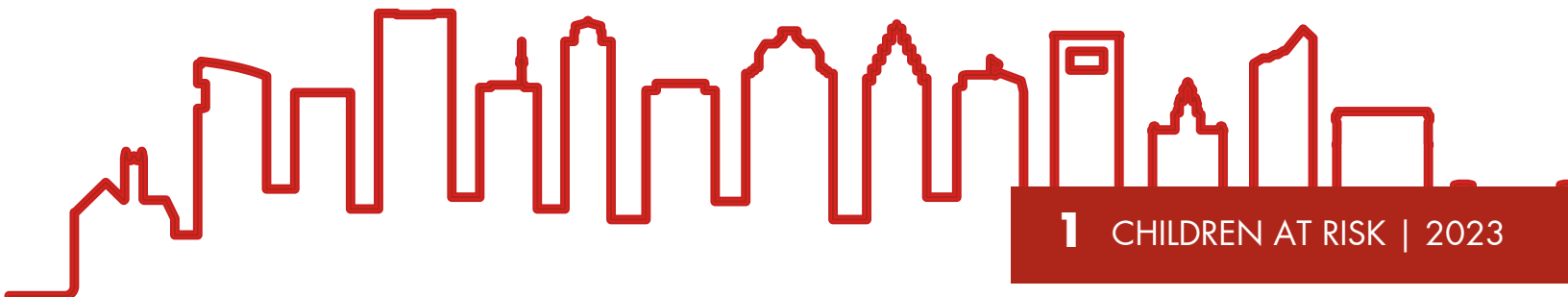
Executive Summary

In the overall assessment of Texas schools, there has been a slight decline in performance since the 2022 rankings. A major factor contributing to this dip is the notable decrease in campus performance scores, particularly in middle and high schools. This trend suggests that there is insufficient support for low-income middle and high schools, impacting the ability of students in these institutions to meet grade-level expectations in reading and math.

College readiness in high schools has seen an improvement since the 2022 rankings, indicating efforts to enhance preparedness for higher education. Although not yet at pre-pandemic levels, the increase is a promising sign of progress in this critical aspect of education.

Looking at the broader picture, academic growth across the state has remained relatively consistent since 2019, maintaining a stable trajectory. However, the state's overall grade, if assessed, would be a C with specific grades in Student Achievement, Campus Performance, Growth, and College Readiness all falling within the C range. This comprehensive evaluation reflects both challenges and commendable efforts within the Texas education system, providing a nuanced perspective on its current state of affairs.

Despite their financial challenges, we have seen local communities, educators, and students demonstrate resilience by finding creative solutions to resource limitations and maintain a commitment to quality education. However, Texas needs to mirror this commitment through creating sustainable solutions to ensuring all children have access to a quality education.
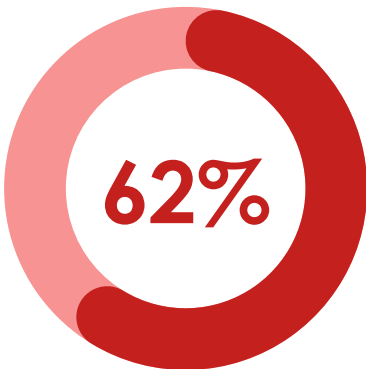
Dr. Robert Sanborn, CEO

Beyond the Bell: Understanding the Texas Public School Landscape

5.5 million
Students in Texas Public Schools

Texas has **the second-highest public school student population** in the United States. The total number of students in Texas **exceeds the combined student population of 21 other states.**

62%

62% of students attending Texas public schools **are living in economically disadvantaged circumstances**. Over 100,000 more children were affected by poverty than the previous school year. Many of these students face unique challenges and require additional assistance to succeed academically. **Providing additional funding for schools in low-income areas, increasing access to early childhood education, and implementing targeted interventions** for struggling students are just a few ways to address this issue.

18%

18% of students attending public schools in Texas **are Emergent Bilingual/ English Language Learners.** Emergent Bilingual/ English Language Learners face unique challenges as they navigate the education system. It is important for educators to provide support and resources to ensure that these students have equal opportunities to succeed academically. By embracing and celebrating linguistic and cultural diversity, Texas public schools can **create inclusive learning environments that benefit all students**.
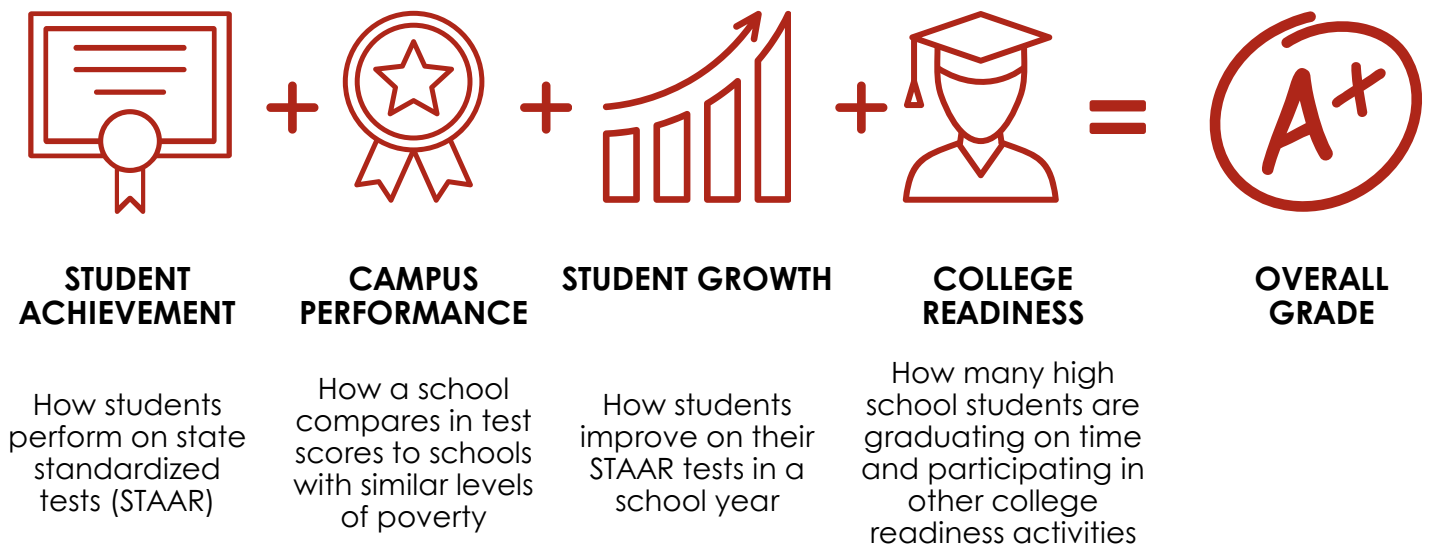
23,408

23,408 **elementary school kids are identified as homeless**. This is equivalent to the total population of Katy, TX as reported in the 2020 Census. Homelessness among elementary school children is a growing concern nationally. **These children face significant challenges in accessing basic necessities such as food, clothing, and healthcare.** Although organizations and governments are working to address the issue, more resources and support are needed to provide a safe and secure place for every child.

Texas Public School Rankings

For the past 19 years, CHILDREN AT RISK (C@R) has ranked and graded Texas public schools to help parents, educators, and community members better understand how their local schools are performing. By providing this information to parents and educators, C@R hopes to encourage greater accountability and transparency in the education system. These grades are intended to be a starting point for discussions on improving our schools and providing better educational opportunities for all students.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT	CAMPUS PERFORMANCE	STUDENT GROWTH	COLLEGE READINESS	OVERALL GRADE
How students perform on state standardized tests (STAAR)	How a school compares in test scores to schools with similar levels of poverty	How students improve on their STAAR tests in a school year	How many high school students are graduating on time and participating in other college readiness activities	

The grading system C@R uses to rank Texas public schools is based on several factors, including student achievement, progress, and performance gaps. C@R ranks elementary and middle schools across three different domains and high schools across four domains. For elementary and middle schools, grades are based on student achievement, student growth, and campus performance (test scores relative to schools with similar levels of poverty). High schools are graded on an additional metric of college readiness that takes into account graduation rates, AP/IB and SAT/ACT scores and participation.

2022-2023 Texas Public School Rankings Data

Children at Risk Statewide Ranked Schools

7213
Ranked Schools

3929
Elementary Schools

2001
Middle Schools

1283
High Schools

CHILDREN AT RISK ranked 7213 Campuses for 2022-2023.
Since many campuses have combined levels- when looking at unique campuses, C@R ranked 6731 unique campuses.
We work to ensure that all eligible schools are ranked and to analyze TEA-provided data with as much accuracy and consistency as possible with the available data given. C@R is dependent on data provided by TEA. We analyze all data assuming the accuracy of the data provided to C@R is true and complete. Please refer to our FAQ section to review why a school may not be ranked.

TEA also ranks Texas schools. Why are these rankings different?

CHILDREN AT RISK ranks all eligible Texas elementary and middle schools across three domains (Student Achievement, Growth, and Campus Performance), and all eligible Texas high schools across four domains (Student Achievement, Growth, and Campus Performance, and College Readiness). CHILDREN AT RISK weighs these domains evenly to compute an overall average score for schools. Each domain accounts for 33% of elementary and middle school rankings, and 25% of high school rankings.

TEA also examines a school's achievement and growth but weighs the better of these two scores at 70%, with the other 30% being calculated by a measure of a campus's relative performance to other schools with similar demographics (similar to CHILDREN AT RISK's Campus Performance metric).

By creating a more stringent measure of Texas's schools, CHILDREN AT RISK ensures a system of accountability for TEA, and an additional advocacy tool for parents.

Texas Public School Rankings Data

Gold Ribbon schools are high-poverty, high-performing schools that serve a student body that is greater than 75% economically disadvantaged and receive an A or B in the C@R rankings. These campuses do an exceptional job serving their students holistically, ensuring that students have the necessary wrap-around supports to achieve academic success. However, Gold Ribbon schools remain in the minority of high-poverty campuses, further highlighting the need of expanded and increased resources to public schools in low-income areas.

249
Gold Ribbon Elementary Schools

26
Gold Ribbon Middle Schools

1
Gold Ribbon High School

While Gold Ribbon schools are certainly making strides in closing the achievement gap, there is still much work to be done. Many high-poverty schools continue to struggle with inadequate resources, overcrowded classrooms, and high teacher turnover rates. However, by highlighting the successes of these exceptional schools, we can continue to advocate for more equitable funding and resources for all public schools, regardless of their zip code.

276
Total Gold Ribbon Schools

The graph below illustrates the number of Texas schools eligible for Gold Ribbon School status compared to those that have achieved it. There has been a 7% decrease in the percentage of schools that obtained Gold Ribbon status, with 276 schools receiving the designation in 2023, compared to 436 in 2022.

Gold Ribbon Eligible vs. Gold Ribbon Schools

Gold Ribbon Eligible   ■ Gold Ribbon

19% (2022)   **12%** (2023)
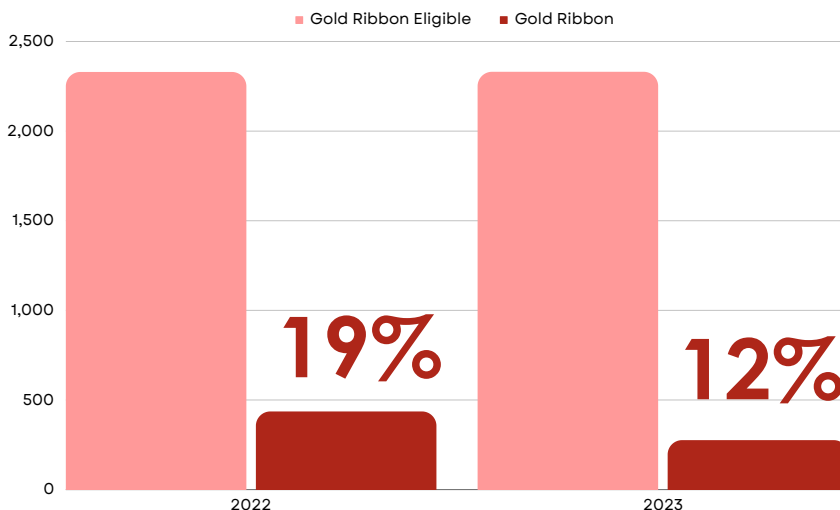
2022-2023 Texas Public School Rankings Data

School Rankings Distribution 2015-2023
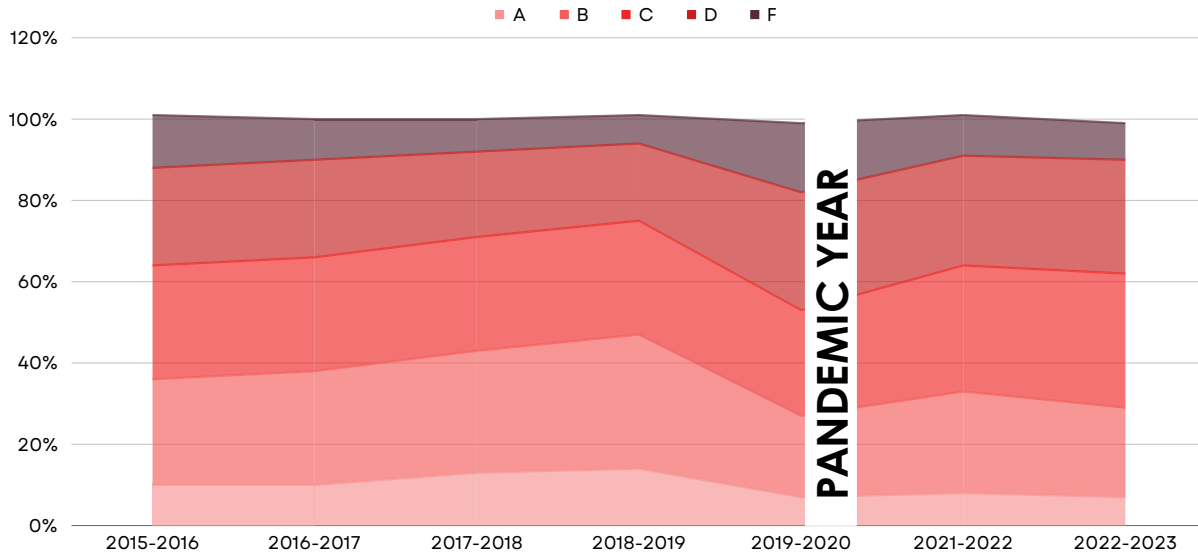
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas schools saw an end to the upward trajectory with a slight decline in overall performance. While Texas schools have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability in their efforts to return to pre-pandemic levels of achievement, there remain fewer overall A and B schools than in 2019.

2022-2023 School Rankings Distribution
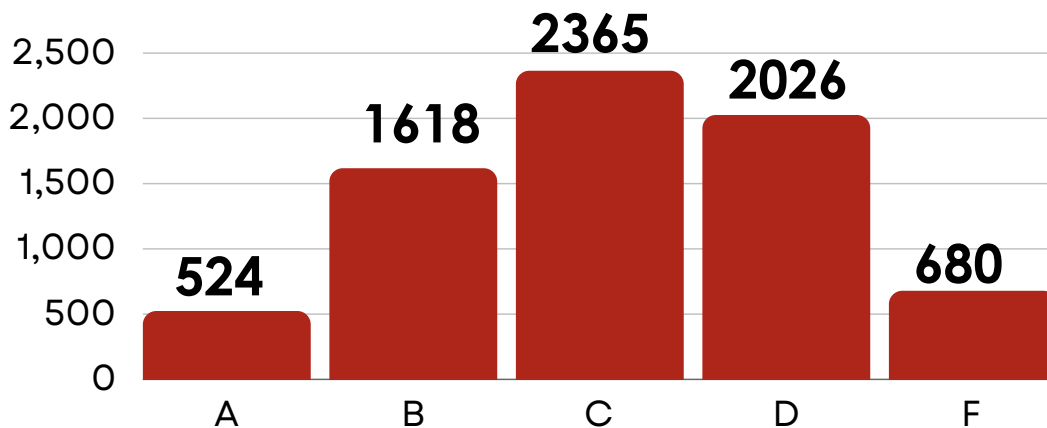
On average, Texas schools have received a C@R grade of C, with Cs in Student Achievement, Campus Performance, Growth, and College Readiness.

Texas Public School Rankings Data

45.56%
Average State Student Achievement Score

How students do on state standardized tests (STAAR)

Elem & Middle = 33% of total score
High = 25% of total score

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

Meets

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

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

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.

Students meet the benchmark when they answer an average of 57% or more of the questions correct on their STAAR exams. C@R measures Student Achievement based on how many students reach the Meets benchmark.

Texas Public School Rankings Data

2022-2023 Student Achievement Indicators

STAAR Test	Meets Grade Level	Masters Grade Level
Percent of students meeting benchmarks in RLA/ELA (Grades 3-8, English I & II)	24.9%	27.0%
Percent of students meeting benchmarks in Math (Grades 3-8 & Algebra I)	19.9%	17.0%

Summarized in the chart above are the percentages of students in ranked schools who have either met or mastered the state standards tested on the STAAR exam, encompassing both RLA/ELA and Math subjects across all grade levels. 48 percent of students failed to Meet or Master their grade level in ELA. Nearly 63 percent of students failed to Meet or Master their grade level in Math.

Math and literacy are foundational skills that play a pivotal role in a student's overall academic success. The emphasis on these subjects in standardized testing reflects their importance in building a strong educational foundation.

There has been no noticeable change in student achievement scores since last year rankings.

Texas Public School Rankings Data

2022-2023 3rd Grade Reading

The 3rd-grade reading STAAR serves as a critical milestone, as it marks the transition from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn.' Proficiency in 3rd-grade reading is a strong predictor of future academic success, as it reflects a foundational understanding of essential literacy skills. Mastering reading at this stage is pivotal for comprehension across all subjects and lays the groundwork for continued learning. Monitoring 3rd-grade reading STAAR outcomes allows educators and policymakers to identify and address potential literacy challenges early, ensuring that students build the necessary skills for lifelong learning and academic achievement.

2022-2023 3rd Grade Reading: Meets or Exceeds Grade Level Expectations by Student Population

Student Population	Percentage
Economically Disadvantaged	37.2%
Emergent Bilingual	34.6%
State	47.7%

2022-2023 8th Grade Math

The 8th-grade math STAAR holds significant importance in assessing a student's mathematical proficiency as they approach high school. Success at this stage is a strong predictor of future success in advanced math courses and STEM-related fields. By monitoring 8th-grade math STAAR outcomes, educators and policymakers gain insights into students' mathematical readiness, allowing for targeted interventions and support to ensure they are well-equipped for the challenges of high school and beyond.

2022-2023 8th Grade Math: Meets or Exceeds Grade Level Expectations by Student Population

Student Population	Percentage
Economically Disadvantaged	33.9%
Emergent Bilingual	30.3%
State	44.2%
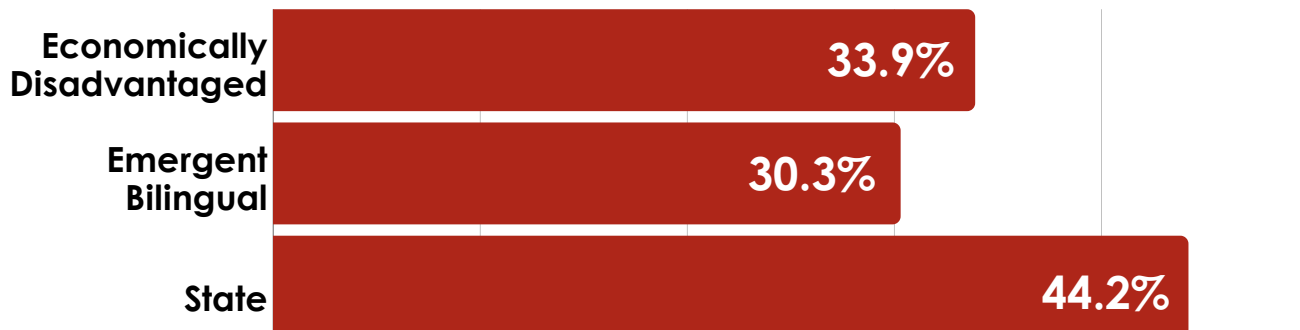
Texas Public School Rankings Data

47.74%
Average Campus Performance Score

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

Elem & Middle = 33% of total score
High = 25% of total score

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.

Campus Achievement Indicators by Rankings Year

Rankings Year	2022	2023
Economically Disadvantaged	62.9%	65.8%
Student Achievement	45.6%	45.6%

Ranked schools in the 2022-2023 school year have more kids that are economically disadvantaged. Presenting other hardships than they have in the past.

This can present significant challenges for schools, as these children need additional support to succeed academically. It is important to remember that every child has the potential to succeed, regardless of their economic background. By providing extra resources and support to these students and families, schools can help level the playing field and ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to thrive. Additionally, by promoting a culture of inclusivity and empathy, schools can create a supportive environment where all students feel valued and respected, regardless of their socioeconomic status.
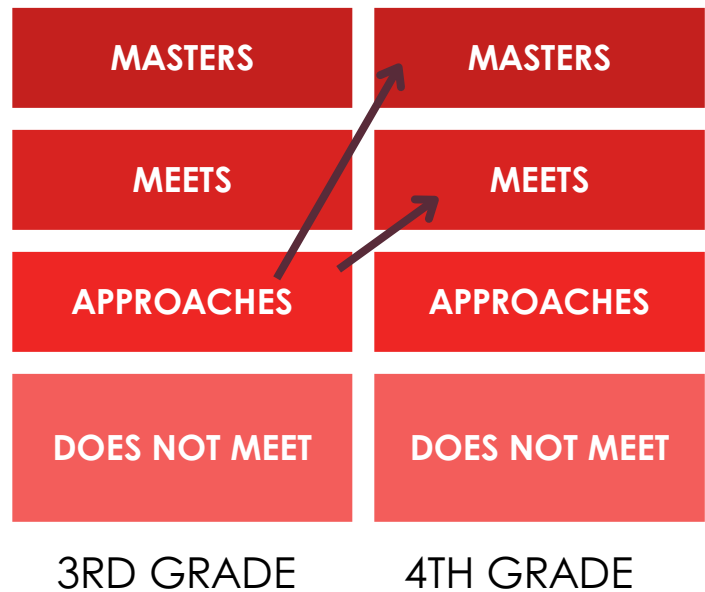
Texas Public School Rankings Data

49.78%
Average State Student Growth Score

How students improve on their STAAR tests in a school year

Elem & Middle = 33% of total score
High = 25% of total score

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.

MASTERS	MASTERS
MEETS	MEETS
APPROACHES	APPROACHES
DOES NOT MEET	DOES NOT MEET
3RD GRADE	4TH GRADE

Student Growth Indicators by Rankings Year

INDICATOR	2022	2023
Math Growth	50.7	50.3
Reading Growth	50.4	50.1

The data above shows that there was no significant change in student growth from 2022 to 2023.

Texas Public School Rankings Data

52.50%
Average State College Readiness Score

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

Elem & Middle = 0% of total score
High = 25% of total score

C@R believes 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 Breakdown

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

Texas Public School Rankings Data

2022-2023 College Readiness Indicators

Rankings Year	2019	2022	2023
C@R Graduation Rate	86.4%	87.4%	88.6%
AP/IB Particpation Rate	24.9%	22.6%	19.6%
SAT/ACT Participation Rate	70.9%	70%	72.7%
SAT Average	1027	1008	908
ACT Average	20	20	18

After the pandemic, high schools struggled with college readiness. We continue to see an increase in students graduating high school, preparing them not just for college entry, but for additional career opportunities.

Texas Public School Rankings Data

FAQs

CHILDREN AT RISK ranked 7213 out of 9057 campuses for the 2022-2023 school year. We work to ensure that all eligible schools are ranked and to analyze TEA-provided data with as much accuracy and consistency as possible with the available data given. C@R is dependent on public school data provided by TEA. We analyze all data assuming the accuracy of the data provided to C@R is true and complete. CHILDREN AT RISK recognizes that this study does not come without limitations.

Incomplete Data

If schools did not report key information to TEA, they may not have been able to be ranked in all domains. This includes data sets like SAT/ACT scores, AP/IB information, or percentage of economically disadvantaged students. STAAR testing data can only be analyzed for a particular school if both math and reading tests had at least two grade levels from a particular campus classification completed and reported. For example, for a school to be ranked as an eligible middle school, they would need STAAR testing results from at least two grade levels within that campus classification (i.e, 6th and 7th, or 7th and 8th). If a campus had less than 10 students take the STAAR test in the previous year, growth scores will not be calculated.

Newer Schools

If schools are newer, we might not have enough data to rank them. For all levels of schools, growth scores cannot be calculated if we do not have the previous year's scores. High schools that opened in the last four years may not be ranked because their first graduating class will be graduating this spring, and as such, we cannot award a college readiness score partially based on graduation rates.

Other Campuses

Campuses with less than 90 students are not ranked at this time.
Schools under a different accountability system from TEA are not ranked.
Campuses undergoing state or district-level investigation are excluded from rankings.

Regional Data

2022-2023 Texas Public School Rankings Data

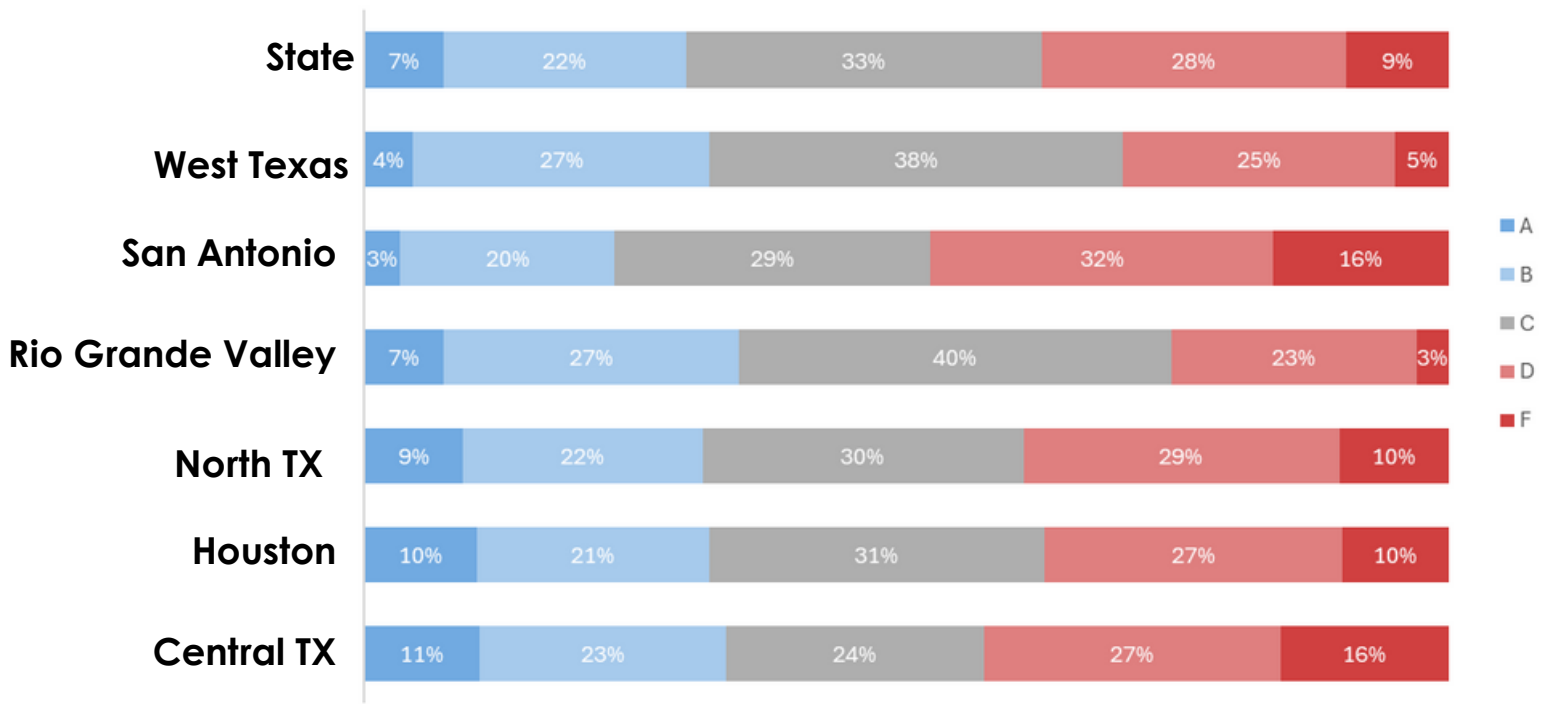## How CHILDREN AT RISK Evaluates Regional Data

At CHILDREN AT RISK, regional-level data is compiled using county level data. Data for the following regions is pulled from the counties listed below.

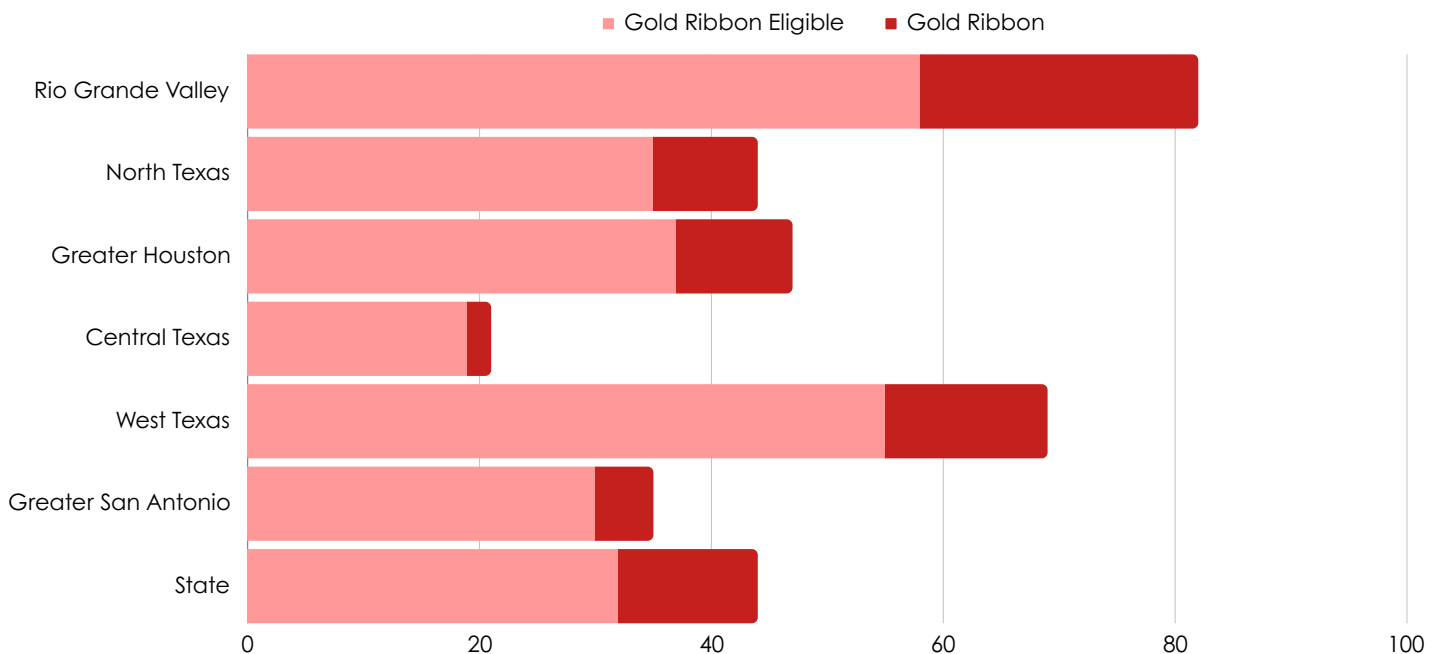| Region	ESC Region	CHILDREN AT RISK Counties
Rio Grande Valley	1	Cameron County, Hidalgo County, Starr County, Willacy County
North Texas	10/11	Collin County, Dallas County, Denton County, Ellis County, Hunt County, Johnson County, Kaufman County, Rockwall County, Tarrant County
Greater Houston	4	Brazoria County, Chambers County, Fort Bend County, Galveston County, Harris County, Liberty County, Waller County
Central Texas	13	Bastrop County, Blanco County, Burnet County, Caldwell County, Hays County, Travis County, Williamson County
West Texas	19	El Paso County, Hudspeth County
Greater San Antonio	20	Atascosa County, Bandera County, Bexar County, Comal County, Guadalupe County, Medina County

2022-2023 Texas Public School Rankings Data

2023 School Rankings Distributions by Region

Region	A	B	C	D	F
State	7%	22%	33%	28%	9%
West Texas	4%	27%	38%	25%	5%
San Antonio	3%	20%	29%	32%	16%
Rio Grande Valley	7%	27%	40%	23%	3%
North TX	9%	22%	30%	29%	10%
Houston	10%	21%	31%	27%	10%
Central TX	11%	23%	24%	27%	16%

2023 Gold Ribbon School Distributions by Region

Gold Ribbon Eligible ■   Gold Ribbon ■

Central Texas

367,783
Total Enrollment

Number of Schools Ranked

Elementary Schools
Middle Schools
High Schools

0   50   100   150   200   250   300

51%
Economically Disadvantaged

18%
Emergent Bilingual

2%
Gold Ribbon eligible campuses awarded Gold Ribbon status

Overall Grade Count

140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0

A   B   C   D   F

46%
Average Student Achievement Score

42%
Average Campus Performance Score

51%
Average Student Growth Score

66%
Average College Readiness Score
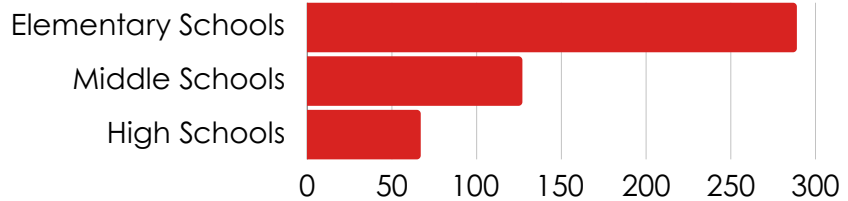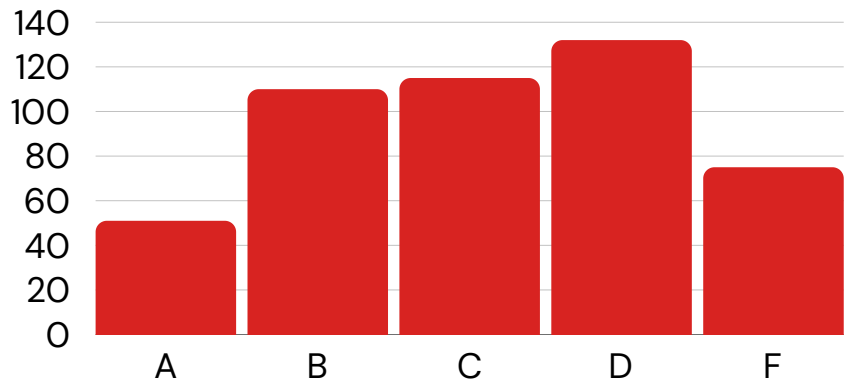
Region Spotlight

College Readiness

Central Texas leads the state in College Readiness

In Central Texas, 29% of junior and senior students participated in ACT/SAT, the highest rate in the state. This region also boasts the highest ACT and SAT averages in the state, which contributes to its reputation of having the highest college readiness average.

This impressive achievement is a reflection of both the hardworking students and the dedicated educators and support staff who have prepared them for college. As a result of this commitment to education, students in the region have greater opportunities to succeed in higher education and achieve their career goals.

Top High Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	RICHARDS SCH FOR YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS	AUSTIN ISD
2	COLORADO RIVER COLLEGIATE ACADEMY	BASTROP ISD
3	LASA H S	AUSTIN ISD
4	NYOS CHARTER SCHOOL	NYOS CHARTER SCHOOL
5	WESTWOOD H S	ROUND ROCK ISD

Top Middle Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	CANYON VISTA MIDDLE	ROUND ROCK ISD
2	CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY	CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY
3	HILL COUNTRY MIDDLE	EANES ISD
4	CEDAR VALLEY MIDDLE	ROUND ROCK ISD
5	WEST RIDGE MIDDLE	EANES ISD

Top Elementary Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	CACTUS RANCH EL	ROUND ROCK ISD
2	CANYON CREEK EL	ROUND ROCK ISD
3	LAUREL MOUNTAIN EL	ROUND ROCK ISD
4	PATSY SOMMER EL	ROUND ROCK ISD
5	LAURA WELCH BUSH EL	LEANDER ISD

1,252,218
Total Enrollment

Number of Schools Ranked

Elementary Schools
Middle Schools
High Schools

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 1,200

62%
Economically Disadvantaged
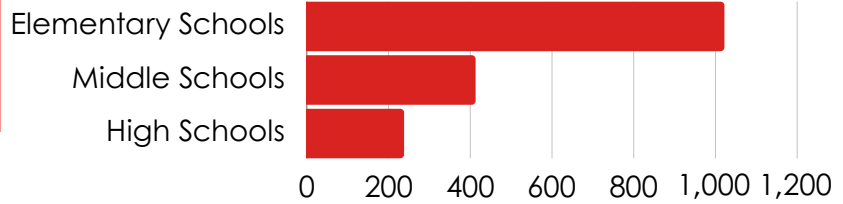
21%
Emergent Bilingual

9%
Gold Ribbon eligible campuses awarded Gold Ribbon status

500
400
300
200
100
0

A B C D F

Overall Grade Count
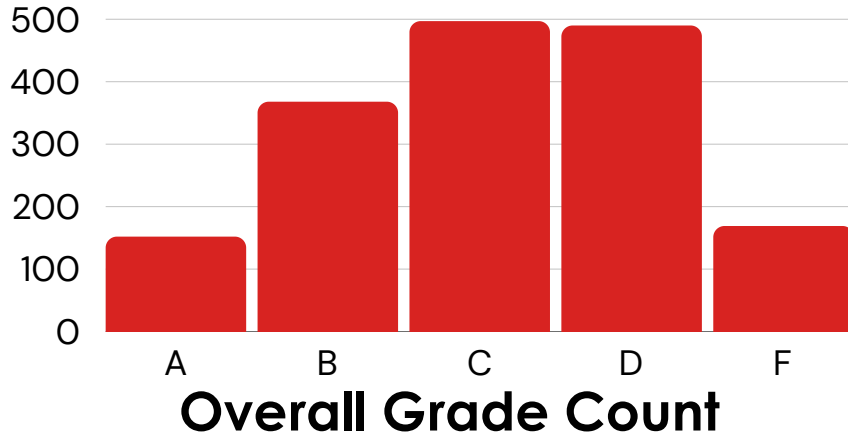
55%
Average Student Achievement Score

47%
Average Campus Performance Score

50%
Average Student Growth Score

75%
Average College Readiness Score

Region Spotlight

Dallas ISD

Dallas Independent School District (DISD) has 231 ranked campuses, with 61% obtaining a passing grade. Also impressive is that six campuses have moved up from their previous rankings, resulting in a 2% increase in the overall district score.

Dallas ISD holds nine of the top ten high schools in North Texas. Even more impressive, the top two spots are held by School for the Talented and Gifted and Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School, which are also considered the top two high schools in the entire state.

Elected by the Board of Trustees in 2022, Superintendent Stephanie S. Elizalde, Ed.D. believes that the development of great school leaders is foundational to success, and that the "teacher is the program."

Top High Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	SCHOOL FOR THE TALENTED AND GIFTED	DALLAS ISD
2	IRMA RANGEL YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOOL	DALLAS ISD
3	MARVIN E ROBINSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MGMT	DALLAS ISD
4	SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS	DALLAS ISD
5	TRINIDAD GARZA EARLY COLLEGE AT MT VIEW	DALLAS ISD

Top Middle Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	WILLIAM B TRAVIS VANGUARD ACAD OF ACADEMICALLY TAG	DALLAS ISD
2	SUDIE L WILLIAMS TALENTED AND GIFTED ACADEMY	DALLAS ISD
3	SCHOOL FOR THE TALENTED & GIFTED IN PLEASANT GROVE	DALLAS ISD
4	LAWLER MIDDLE	FRISCO ISD
5	FOWLER MIDDLE	FRISCO ISD

Top Elementary Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	SUDIE L WILLIAMS TALENTED AND GIFTED ACADEMY	DALLAS ISD
2	SCHOOL FOR THE TALENTED AND GIFTED IN PLEASANT GROVE	DALLAS ISD
3	TALLEY EL	FRISCO ISD
4	MCSPEDDEN EL	FRISCO ISD
5	ANDERSON EL	FRISCO ISD

Greater Houston

1,244,176
Total Enrollment

70%
Economically Disadvantaged

21%
Emergent Bilingual

10%
Gold Ribbon eligible campuses awarded Gold Ribbon status

Number of Schools Ranked

Elementary Schools	(≈790)
Middle Schools	(≈340)
High Schools	(≈200)

Axis: 0, 200, 400, 600, 800

Overall Grade Count

Y-axis: 0, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500

Grade	Count
A	≈140
B	≈285
C	≈410
D	≈360
F	≈130

46%
Average Student Achievement Score

50%
Average Campus Performance Score

49%
Average Student Growth Score

61%
Average College Readiness Score
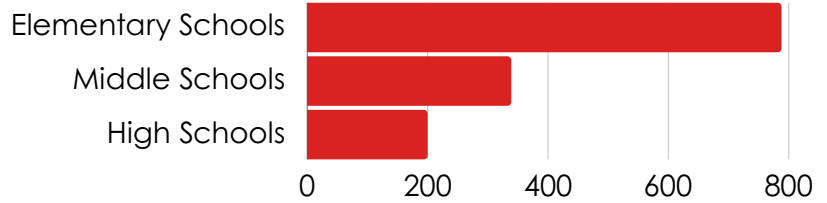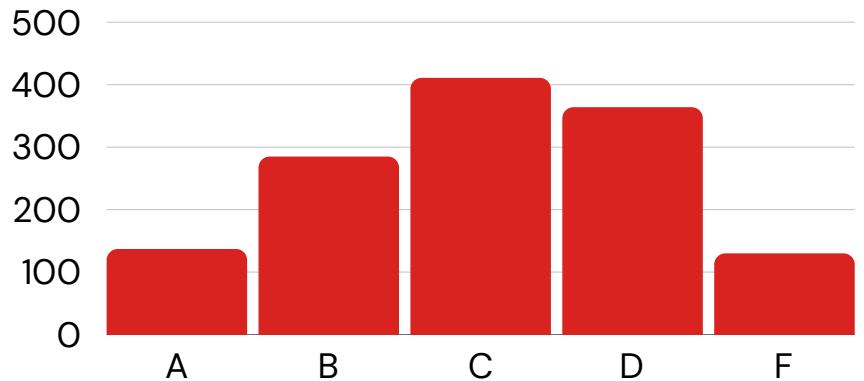
Region Spotlight

Katy ISD

Katy Independent School District has been awarded a B overall district grade and currently enrolls the highest number of students among the top 20 districts in Houston, with 85444 students enrolled across 67 campuses.

Across all subjects in English Language Arts (ELA), 72% of students meet or exceed the grade level, while 64% of students meet or exceed the grade level in Math. Looking at the data according to student population, the district still exceeds the state average with 56% of economically disadvantaged students meeting grade level for ELA, and 46% meeting grade level for Math, compared to the state's 42% and 34% respectively.

Top High Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	CARNEGIE VANGUARD H S	HOUSTON ISD
2	YOUNG WOMEN'S COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY	HOUSTON ISD
3	ALIEF EARLY COLLEGE H S	ALIEF ISD
4	EASTWOOD ACADEMY	HOUSTON ISD
5	CHALLENGE EARLY COLLEGE H S	HOUSTON ISD

Top Middle Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	T H ROGERS SCHOOL	HOUSTON ISD
2	MANDARIN IMMERSION MAGNET SCHOOL	HOUSTON ISD
3	CORNERSTONE ACADEMY	SPRING BRANCH ISD
4	BRIARMEADOW CHARTER	HOUSTON ISD
5	BECKENDORFF J H	KATY ISD

Top Elementary Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	COMMONWEALTH EL	FORT BEND ISD
2	BESS CAMPBELL EL	LAMAR CISD
3	STAFFORD STEM MAGNET ACADEMY	STAFFORD MSD
4	GRIFFIN EL	KATY ISD
5	T H ROGERS SCHOOL	HOUSTON ISD

Rio Grande Valley

330,166
Total Enrollment

87%
Economically Disadvantaged

32%
Emergent Bilingual

24%
Gold Ribbon eligible campuses awarded Gold Ribbon status

Number of Schools Ranked

Elementary Schools
Middle Schools
High Schools

0 50 100 150 200 250 300

Overall Grade Count

250
200
150
100
50
0

A B C D F

50%
Average Student Achievement Score

55%
Average Campus Performance Score

57%
Average Student Growth Score

56%
Average College Readiness Score
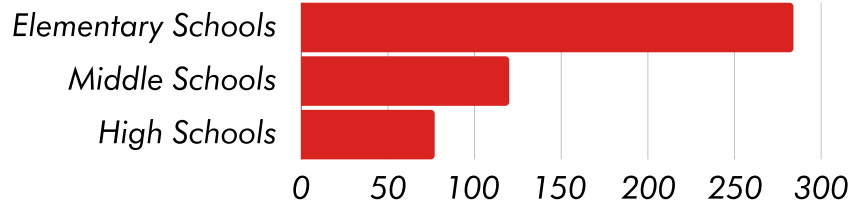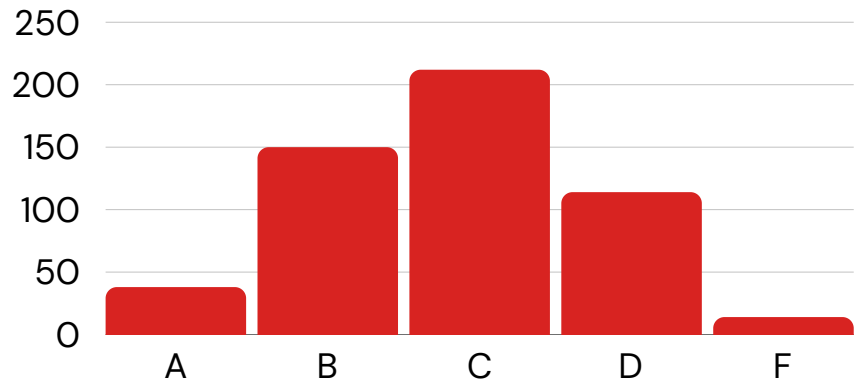
Region Spotlight

Gold Ribbon Schools

In recent years, the educational landscape in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) has undergone significant transformations, reflecting both challenges and successes. 87% of students enrolled in public schools within the RGV are economically disadvantaged. This figure marks a surge from 63% in the rankings of 2022. In 2023, 31% of students in public schools within the RGV are Emergent Bilingual students, a notable increase from the 22% reported in 2022. Despite these challenges, the RGV stands out as a beacon of academic achievement in the state of Texas. Notably, the region boasts the highest percentage of Gold Ribbon Schools in the state.

When it comes to overall academic performance, the RGV solidifies its position as a leader in the state. With the highest overall score among all regions, the RGV showcases its dedication to excellence across all educational metrics. Particularly impressive is the RGV Region's attainment of the highest Campus Performance score in the entire state, standing at an impressive 57%.

Rio Grande Valley

Top High Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	BROWNSVILLE EARLY COLLEGE H S	BROWNSVILLE ISD
2	ACHIEVE EARLY COLLEGE H S	MCALLEN ISD
3	IDEA QUEST COLLEGE PREPARATORY	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
4	HARLINGEN SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS	HARLINGEN CISD
5	IDEA FRONTIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Top Middle Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	IDEA QUEST COLLEGE PREPARATORY	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2	BROWNSVILLE RAUL YZAGUIRRE STEM SCHOLARS PREP	RAUL YZAGUIRRE SCHOOLS FOR SUCCESS
3	IDEA RUNDBERG COLLEGE PREPARATORY	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
4	IDEA MCALLEN COLLEGE PREPARATORY	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
5	MORRIS MIDDLE	MCALLEN ISD

Top Elementary Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	EMMA VERA EL	ROMA ISD
2	FLORENCE J SCOTT EL	ROMA ISD
3	RANCHO VERDE EL	LOS FRESNOS CISD
4	GONZALEZ EL	MCALLEN ISD
5	HIDALGO PARK EL	HIDALGO ISD

Greater San Antonio

434,566
Total Enrollment

Number of Schools Ranked

Elementary Schools
Middle Schools
High Schools

0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350

67%
Economically Disadvantaged

12%
Emergent Bilingual

5%
Gold Ribbon eligible campuses awarded Gold Ribbon status

Overall Grade Count

200
150
100
50
0

A B C D F

41%
Average Student Achievement Score

39%
Average Campus Performance Score

47%
Average Student Growth Score

53%
Average College Readiness Score
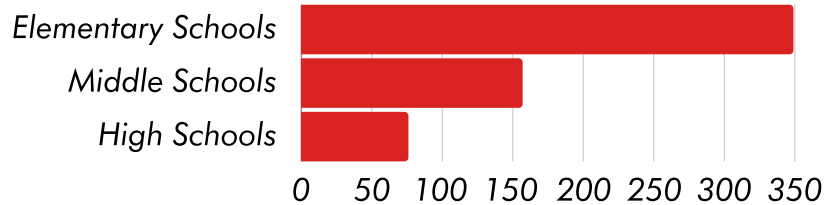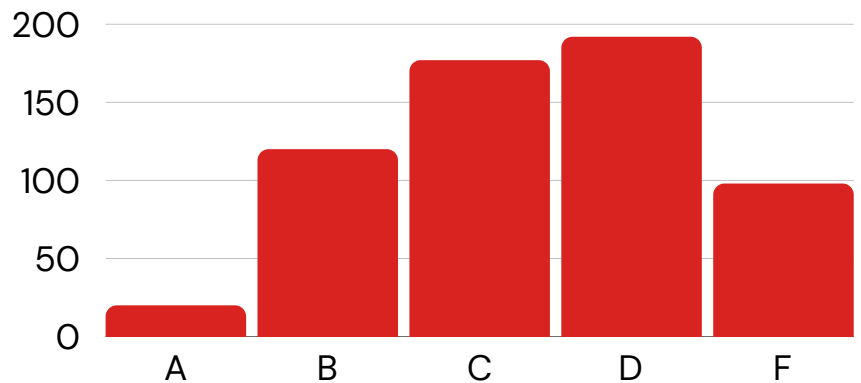
Region Spotlight

Gold Ribbon Schools in San Antonio ISD

Out of 178 campuses across San Antonio that were eligible for Gold Ribbon recognition, San Antonio ISD had five of the nine Gold Ribbon schools. These five schools serve a student population that is, on average, 88% economically disadvantaged and 21% emergent bilingual/ESL. The campuses have an impressive average score of 65.5% (B), compared to the district average of 32.6% (D).

Despite facing numerous challenges, the students have excelled academically and serves as a shining example for other schools in the state to follow. The success of the Gold Ribbon schools in San Antonio ISD is a point of pride for the entire community and a reminder that every child has the potential to succeed with the right resources and encouragement.

Top High Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	IDEA CARVER COLLEGE PREPARATORY	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2	MEMORIAL EARLY COLLEGE H S WITH ST PHILIP'S	COMAL ISD
3	HEALTH CAREERS H S	NORTHSIDE ISD
4	TRAVIS EARLY COLLEGE H S	SAN ANTONIO ISD
5	YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	SAN ANTONIO ISD

Top Middle Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	BASIS SAN ANTONIO- SHAVANO CAMPUS	BASIS TEXAS
2	LOPEZ MIDDLE	NORTH EAST ISD
3	GREAT HEARTS IRVING UPPER	GREAT HEARTS TEXAS
4	ELEANOR KOLITZ HEBREW LANGUAGE ACADEMY	ELEANOR KOLITZ HEBREW LANGUAGE ACADEMY
5	YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	SAN ANTONIO ISD

Top Elementary Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	HOFFMANN LANE EL	COMAL ISD
2	BLATTMAN EL	NORTHSIDE ISD
3	WILDERNESS OAK EL	NORTHSIDE ISD
4	CASTLE HILLS EL	NORTHSIDE ISD
5	KINDER RANCH EL	COMAL ISD

165,506
Total Enrollment

Number of Schools Ranked

79%
Economically Disadvantaged

25%
Emergent Bilingual

14%
Gold Ribbon eligible campuses awarded Gold Ribbon status

Overall Grade Count

44%
Average Student Achievement Score

51%
Average Campus Performance Score

58%
Average Student Growth Score

49%
Average College Readiness Score
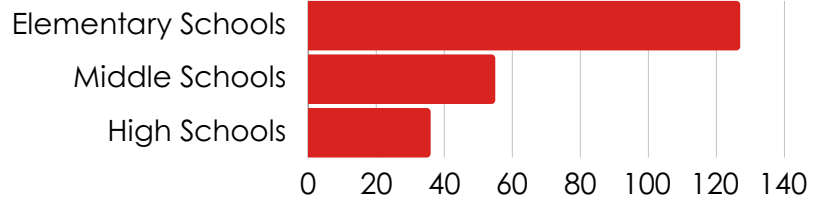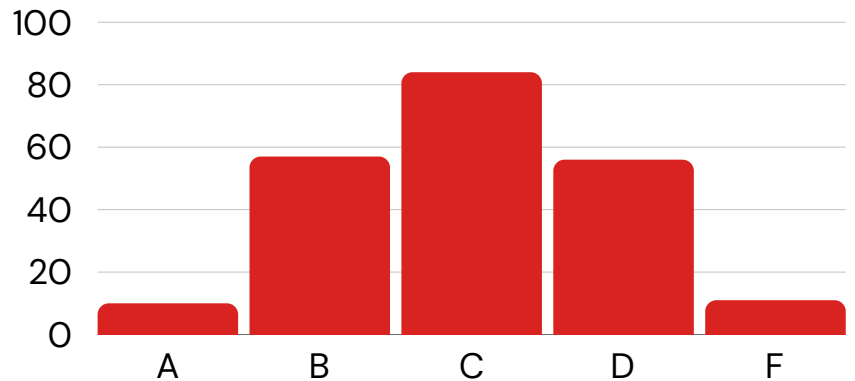
Region Spotlight

Ysleta ISD

Ysleta ISD has a student population of more than 36,000, with 78.3% of students classified as Economically Disadvantaged and 32.4% as Emergent Bilingual - both exceeding the state average. Despite these obstacles, 78% of ranked schools within the district have a passing grade, with not a single F school. Ysleta ISD is home to seven of the top ten elementary schools in West Texas and the top two middle schools in the region.

Ysleta ISD has achieved notable recognition for their efforts in supporting and retaining high quality teachers - over 60% of their teachers in the 22-23 school year have 11- 30 years of experience. These outstanding achievements serve as a testament to the district's unwavering commitment to excellence across various aspects of education.

Top High Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	SILVA HEALTH MAGNET	EL PASO ISD
2	TRANSMOUNTAIN EARLY COLLEGE H S	EL PASO ISD
3	VALLE VERDE EARLY COLLEGE H S	YSLETA ISD
4	NORTHWEST EARLY COLLEGE H S	CANUTILLO ISD
5	MISSION COLLEGE H S	SOCORRO ISD

Top Middle Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	YOUNG WOMENS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	YSLETA ISD
2	ALICIA R CHACON INTERNATIONAL	YSLETA ISD
3	HORNEDO MIDDLE	EL PASO ISD
4	IDEA MESA HILLS COLLEGE PREPARATORY	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
5	HARMONY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE- EL PASO	HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS- WEST TEXAS

Top Elementary Schools

Region Ranking	School	District
1	VISTA HILLS EL	YSLETA ISD
2	JOHN DRUGAN SCHOOL	SOCORRO ISD
3	GLEN COVE EL	YSLETA ISD
4	TIERRA DEL SOL EL	YSLETA ISD
5	NORTH STAR EL	YSLETA ISD

Outside of main metro areas

1,225,683
Total Enrollment

Number of Schools Ranked

- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 1,200

62%
Economically Disadvantaged

10%
Emergent Bilingual

12%
Gold Ribbon eligible campuses awarded Gold Ribbon status

Overall Grade Count

1,000
800
600
400
200
0

A   B   C   D   F

47%
Average Student Achievement Score

48%
Average Campus Performance Score

48%
Average Student Growth Score

45%
Average College Readiness Score
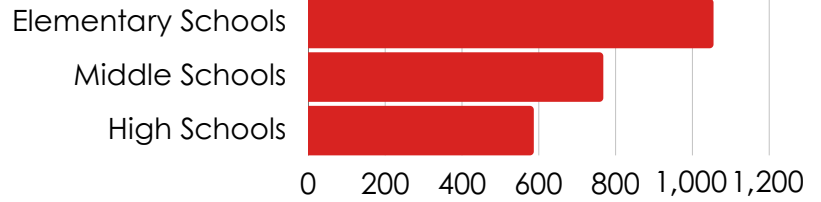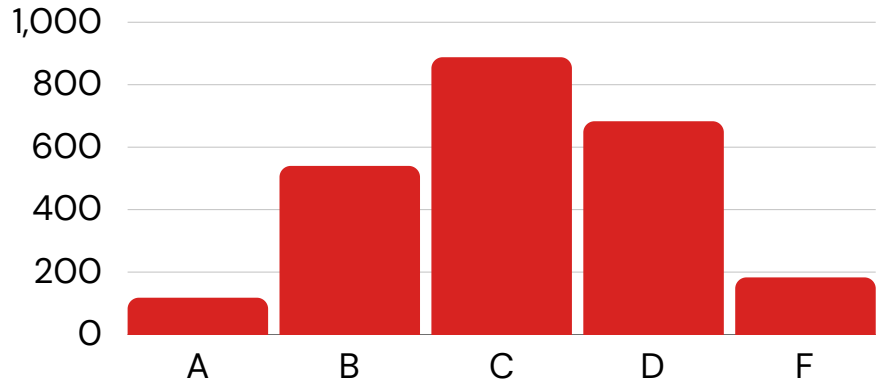
Region Spotlight

Region 16

Located in Amarillo, Texas, Region 16 comprises of 159 ranked schools that serve over 64,000 students. According to the latest TEA reporting from 2019-2020, 33 out of the 49 ranked school districts in Region 16 are classified as rural ISDs.

Region 16 holds the highest overall region score at 54.07% or a C+. Over 75% of Region 16 schools earned a C or above. With a diverse student population and dedicated educators, Region 16 is a shining example of how a rural community can come together to prioritize education and support their students. Through innovative programs and dedicated educators, the schools in Region 16 are making a positive impact on the lives of their students and families.

Source/Disclaimer

Data for the 2022-2023 school year was obtained through an open data request to the Texas Education Agency and analyzed by our Center for Social Measurement and Evaluation.

Any questions or comments? Please contact us at schoolrankings@childrenatrisk.org.