



## SCHOOL RANKINGS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *Why wasn't a school ranked?*

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#### *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, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>).

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.

#### *Different 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.

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

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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.

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*Do you think that a school should be ranked higher or lower?*

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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.** CHILDREN AT RISK recognizes that this study does not come without limitations. For a comprehensive overview of study limitations, please review a full review of our methodology [here](#).