Why did TEA have a different ranking than C@R ?

Children at Risk and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) use different methods to evaluate schools, which can lead to differences in rankings. For a detailed explanation of TEA's system, please visit their website.

How TEA Calculates Ratings - TEA uses three main domains:

Student Achievement
- Measures STAAR exam performance in all subjects: Reading, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies.
- Credit is given for students who score at Approaches Grade Level or higher.
- For high schools, College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) and graduation rates are included.
- Weighting for high schools:
  - STAAR Performance: 40%
  - CCMR: 40%
  - Graduation Rate: 20%

School Progress
- Part A: Academic Growth – Tracks year-over-year improvement in STAAR Reading and Math.
- Part B: Relative Performance – Compares performance to similar campuses.
- <u>TEA uses the higher score</u> from Part A or Part B for this domain.

Closing the Gaps
- Focuses on performance of student groups (e.g., by race, economic status, English proficiency).
- Includes grade-level performance, growth, English language proficiency, and achievement targets.

Overall TEA Rating: The <u>better score</u> from Student Achievement or School Progress counts for 70% of the overall rating and Closing the Gaps counts for 30%.

How Children at Risk Calculates Rankings

Children at Risk uses three domains for elementary and middle schools, and four for high schools:

Student Achievement
- Percentage of students who Meet Grade Level on STAAR Math and Reading on STAAR exams.

Campus Performance
- Adjusts achievement scores based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

Growth Index
- Measures improvement over time in Math and Reading compared to similar students statewide.

College Readiness Index (High Schools Only)
- Evaluates readiness for college-level work.

Overall C@R grade: Elementary & Middle Schools: Each domain counts for 33% of the overall rank. High Schools: Each domain counts for 25%.

This school should be ranked higher

The success of children and schools depends on many factors, and research highlights several that make the biggest difference. Parental involvement plays a key role, as does a child's social and emotional development. The quality of teachers and how they deliver instruction in the classroom matters greatly. Opportunities for extracurricular activities, high expectations from both teachers and parents, and engaging classwork that sparks critical thinking also contribute to strong outcomes.

While these elements are essential, there's no universal way to measure them across thousands of schools. Collecting this type of information consistently for nearly 8,000 campuses would be extremely challenging. For this reason, rankings often rely on standardized data sources. One important limitation is that CHILDREN AT RISK depends on data provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). TEA's data focuses on measurable academic indicators, which means many of these influential factors, such as parental involvement or social-emotional growth are not captured in school rankings.

School rankings can provide helpful insights, but they don't tell the whole story. They focus on what can be measured, not on every factor that shapes a child's success. When evaluating a school, it's important to consider the broader picture, such as the quality of teachers, the school culture, and the level of family engagement, alongside the published ratings. Rankings are a useful tool, but they should be just one piece of your decision-making process.

There are several other limitations of these rankings. For a complete list please review the full document around our methods.

Why wasn't a school ranked?

Incomplete data

If schools did not report key information to TEA schools may not have been able to be ranked in a full capacity. This includes things like SAT/ACT scores, AP/IB information, percentage of economically disadvantaged students. STAAR testing was ranked on if both Math and Reading tests had at least two grade levels of each campus completed.

Newer schools

If schools are newer, we might not have enough data to rank.
For all levels of schools, growth scores cannot be calculated if we do not have previous year scores. If a campus has less than 10 students take the STAAR test in the previous year, growth scores will not be calculated.

For high schools that opened in the last four years may not be ranked because their first graduating class will be graduating this spring.

Different campuses

·Campuses under 90 students are not ranked at this time.
·Schools under a different accountability system from TEA are not ranked.
Campuses underdoing state or district investigation are excluded from rankings.

Have Questions?

If you have additional questions, please email us at csme@childrenatrisk.org so we can respond promptly.

CHILDREN AT RISK

Speaking Out +Driving Change
for Children

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