



Bay City Independent School District

520 7th Street · Bay City, Texas 77414 · (979) 245-5766 · (979) 245-3175

January 10, 2017

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Other Members of the Bay City ISD Community,

In the Spring of 2015, the Texas Legislature adopted House Bill 2804, which requires the Texas Education Agency to develop a new accountability system and implement it at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Under the new system, TEA is required to create five domains of indicators to measure district and campus performance and progress, and to issue districts and campuses a rating of A, B, C, D, or F for overall performance, as well as for performance in each of the five domains.

Last Friday, TEA released a legislative report showing the ratings that each district and campus would have received for 4 of the 5 domains for the 2015–16 school year if the A–F rating system had been in place for that year. The ratings contained in the legislative report are **not official** and are simply being presented by TEA as one possible, but not necessarily final, approach to an A-F grading system. In his press release accompanying the legislative report, Commissioner Morath stressed this point by saying:

The ratings in this report are for informational purposes to meet a legislative requirement and represent work-in-progress models that are likely to change before A–F ratings become effective in August 2018. No inferences about official district or campus performance in the 2015–16 school year should be drawn from these ratings, and these ratings should not be considered predictors of future district or campus performance ratings.

For purposes of the legislative report, TEA used a model that limited the number of schools which could achieve As or Bs - rather than evaluating the performance of schools against an established goal. In each of the four domains for which TEA issued preliminary A-F ratings, the distribution of letter grades issued by TEA is virtually identical (in approximately these percentages):

% of A's	% of B's	% of C's	% of D's	% of F's
12.5%	20%	35%	20%	12.5%

Under this model – which predetermines the number of each letter grade to be assigned – nearly one-third of the grades assigned by TEA to districts and campuses in the Legislative Report were failing grades of either F or D. This is the equivalent of a classroom teacher telling parents: “I just want to you to understand that at the end of the year I am simply going to put the students in order from highest grade to lowest grade and automatically fail 1/3 of them – no matter how well they actually do.” In fact, the model used by TEA resulted in some campuses being assigned an F rating even though their performance score was a 90.

We embrace the importance of being accountable to our students, our parents, and our community, but we do not believe that the preliminary ratings assigned by TEA appropriately or accurately measure the

accomplishments of our students, the programs being implemented on our campuses, or the quality teaching that is occurring each and every day in our classrooms.

To learn more about the A-F accountability system and implementation, please visit the A-F Resources Page on the TEA website at:

[http://tea.texas.gov/Student Testing and Accountability/Accountability/A-F Accountability Resources/](http://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Accountability/A-F_Accountability_Resources/)

If you would like to provide TEA with your thoughts or comments about A-F accountability, you may send an email to: rules@tea.texas.gov

We will remain steadfast in our commitment to student achievement and providing quality educational programs for all students.

As always, it is a great day to be a Blackcat!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. C. ...', written in a cursive style.

Superintendent