

Ensure accountability sanctions apply to failing schools, not data-entry errors

The Problem

Texas has one of the strongest public school accountability systems in the country. Public charter schools face a no-appeal closure policy if they fail three years in a row. ISDs face sanctions, including state takeover, if they fail five years in a row. With these tough sanctions on the books, it's important that a failing grade be assigned to a school when it is truly failing. TEA does not allow any public school to appeal a low rating that is the result of a school data-entry error, even if the correct data would result in a higher accountability rating. With public schools subject to closure or takeover based on these ratings, it is important that the ratings are based on the schools' real performance, not a data-entry mistake.

The Solution

Allow public schools—both ISD and charter—to appeal a data-entry error attributable to the school that impacts the school's accountability rating.



SB 2285 / HB 3398 will:

- ✓ Require TEA to review a challenge regardless of the issue identified by a public school;
- ✓ Prohibit TEA commissioner from limiting accountability appeals that are based on a data or calculation error, or inaccuracy attributable to the ISD or charter school;
- ✓ Require TEA to assign a school the corrected rating or indicate “not rated” that school year if the appeal demonstrates that the data-entry error caused the ISD or charter holder to have a lower academic or financial accountability rating; and
- ✓ Prevent TEA commissioner from using a non-rated year as a strike for purposes of the charter “3 strikes” law.