

To the Stakeholders of Sierra Blanca Independent School District

Subject: Assignment of Accreditation Status to the Sierra Blanca ISD

**IMPORTANT
ACCREDITATION
INFORMATION**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the 2016-2017 accreditation status of the Sierra Blanca Independent School District is Accredited-Probation. Under state law, the accreditation statuses that may be assigned to districts include Accredited, Accredited-Warning, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked. A status of Accredited-Probation means that a district exhibits deficiencies in performance that, if not addressed, will lead to revocation of the district's accreditation status.

The Sierra Blanca ISD has been assigned an Accredited-Probation status due to the ratings assigned to the district in the state's academic accountability rating system and financial accountability rating system. Specifically, the Sierra Blanca ISD was assigned a 2014 and 2015 financial accountability rating of Substandard Achievement and a 2014, 2015 and 2016 academic accountability rating of Improvement Required.

The district is taking the following steps to address the areas of identified deficiency.

- Worked closely with our Texas Education Agency Conservator, Mr. Fred Liner, Region 19 Education Service Center (ESC), and Deputy Commissioner of Governance to ensure that school board members received required training to effectively lead the district in the area of student achievement
- Contracted with Region 19 Education Service Center to provide the board of trustees with the training that is required for all board members
- The district continues to work closely with Region 12 ESC to ensure that financial procedures are drafted and implemented to ensure transparency and fiscal responsibility, and the district received a 2016 Financial Accountability Rating of A-Superior.
- Contracted with Texas Education Agency Professional Service Provider, Jan Brown, to draft and implement plans in accordance with Agency requirements to address academic deficiencies.
- Personnel received training to address the needs of our Limited English Proficient Students
- Contracted with Region 19 Education Service Center to provide training to teachers on understanding the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and on research-based pedagogical practices.
- Worked with a group of mentor teachers from Ector County to help our teachers plan and deliver more effective lessons.

Under law, if the current accreditation concerns for the district are not addressed, the district may be assigned an accreditation status of Not Accredited-Revoked. A Not Accredited-Revoked status means that the TEA no longer recognizes the district as a Texas public school. Districts with an accreditation status below Accredited also may be subject to additional accreditation sanctions as referenced in statute and rule.

For more information regarding the assignment of accreditation statuses to school districts, you may access the TEA website at <http://www.tea.texas.gov/accredstatus/>. This website will provide you with background information as well as links to the Texas Education Code and current commissioner's rules related to accreditation.

If you have additional questions regarding the assignment of an Accredited-Probation status to the Sierra Blanca Independent School District or if you would like additional information about the district's ongoing improvement efforts, please contact Ebby Loeffler, Superintendent.