

Accountability System Update

DEIC
September 2024

2023 Accountability Lawsuit

- Filed due to a violation of TEC 39.0542
 - Each school year, the commissioner shall provide each school district a document in a simple, accessible format that explains the accountability performance measures, methods, and procedures that will be applied for that school year in assigning each school district and campus a performance rating under Section 39.054.
- Final 2023 Accountability Manual released on October 31, 2023
- Retroactive changes to College, Career, and Military Readiness calculations that affected the Class of 2022 (already graduated by October 31, 2023).

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2023 Accountability Lawsuit

- Currently going through the appeals process.



2024 Accountability Lawsuit

- Filed due to violation of:
 - TEC 39.023 (a-11)
 - Before an assessment instrument adopted or developed under Subsection (a) may be administered under that subsection, the assessment instrument must, on the basis of empirical evidence, be determined to be **valid and reliable by an entity that is independent of the agency** and of any other entity that developed the assessment instrument.
 - An instrument is valid when the results represent what they are supposed to measure (accuracy).
 - An instrument is reliable when it is consistent and produces the same results under the same conditions.
 - During TEA's testimony in the 2023 lawsuit, Deputy Director Iris Tian testified that TEA's Technical Advisory Committee was to review the STAAR Redesign. This is a group of psychometricians selected by TEA and convened twice a year by TEA to provide input into the assessment program. This group does not meet the definition as per TEC 39.023 (a-11).

2024 Accountability Lawsuit

- August 12, 2025: Lawsuit filed in Travis County to block release of 2024 A-F ratings.
 - Judge issued a restraining order.
- September 19, 2025: After a 2-day hearing, Judge signed an order granting a temporary injunction in the litigation challenging TEA's authority to issue accountability ratings for the 2024 school year.
 - Trial date has been set for February 2025.



Difference in the Two Lawsuits

- 2023 Lawsuit: Timing of Accountability Manual release and resulting implications
- 2024 Lawsuit: Reliability and Validity of STAAR



Good News

- STAAR data (released in Spring and Summer 2023 and 2024) are used to make instructional decisions.
- Local assessment data (available throughout the school year) are used to make instructional decisions.



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