

Santa Fe ISD Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Kevin M. Bott, Ed.D.



Dear Santa Fe students, staff, parents, and community,

This letter is to inform you regarding the recent release of the TEA *Preliminary* 2023 A-F Accountability Ratings. It is important to note that these scores are from the 2022-2023 school year. These Ratings were delayed due to over 120 school districts in Texas filing lawsuits over changes to the TEA Accountability System for 2023 and 2024. While Santa Fe ISD is committed to transparency with our community, we want to ensure that you are aware of the facts surrounding these Ratings.

The 2023 STAAR test was significantly "refreshed" by the state. This was a newly formatted exam with different types of questions and material that required all students to take the test online for the first time. Many resources and practice materials for the STAAR tests were still being developed by the State during that same school year. In addition, the State's new scoring system included significantly higher "cut points" for all public schools. It is these new system changes that ultimately led to lawsuits from school districts.

We want to be very clear with our stakeholders – SFISD does not have a problem with increased rigor. In fact, our students and staff rose to the challenge admirably! SFISD performed better on the 2023 test than in previous years. Unfortunately, due to the new scoring system, our higher test scores in 2023 resulted in a lower letter grade (you are reading that correctly). Our overall letter grade dropped from an 84 (in 2022) to a 79 (in 2023) – even though our 2023 test scores were higher.

We also wanted to let you know that SFISD plans to appeal this rating. Again, these 2023 letter grades are *Preliminary* until the appeal process is concluded. Our records show that SFISD should have received a "B" rating for 2023. The appeal process finalizes in May, and final letter grades will be released in June.

It is also important to note that the 2024 ratings are being withheld because of a separate lawsuit. Our district predictions for 2024 show that we will have a "B" rating as well. Our SFISD schools continue to grow and improve, but we encourage all stakeholders to consider more than just a single test (or scoring system) when evaluating the outstanding quality of our Santa Fe schools. Our SFISD teachers and staff do truly amazing work every single day. They are to be commended.

We hope you will engage in conversations with teachers and staff at each campus whenever you have questions about student performance. TOGETHER, we will continue to strive for excellence for our students, staff, and community.

If you would like to learn more about the 2023 and 2024 State Accountability System, please visit the website below or contact our Curriculum and Instruction Department at (409) 925-9010.

Sincerely,
Kevin M. Bott, Ed.D.



Our Community. Our Legacy.
OUR FUTURE.

