Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated ISD

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Lincoln Junior High School Faculty and Staff
FROM: Dr. Bryan T. Taulton, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: Monday, January 5, 2026
RE: LJH 2025 TEA A-F Accountability Results Clarification and Moving Forward

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Good morning, LJH Faculty & Staff,

As we continue preparing for the upcoming state assessment season, I want to share important clarification regarding our 2025 TEA A-F accountability results and reaffirm our confidence in the outstanding work happening every day in classrooms at Lincoln Junior High.

Background

When we received our preliminary accountability ratings this summer, we discussed the outcomes and their implications for LJH and the district. Since that time, a comprehensive review of the accountability calculations—aligned with the Texas Education Agency's 2025 Academic Accountability System (see provided overview)—has provided critical insights that our team should understand now that the official results have been released.

Key Findings

Lincoln Junior High's overall accountability outcome was significantly affected by the **accountability penalty cap**, not by lack of progress or effort.

- **Official Rating:** LJH received an overall rating of **59 (F)** due to the penalty cap
- **Uncapped Score:** Without the penalty cap, LJH's calculated score would have been **61 (D), a 6-point improvement** from the 2024 academic year.

How the Uncapped Score Was Calculated: 70% of Lincoln Junior High's accountability rating is determined by the higher score between **Domain I (Student Achievement)** and **Domain II (School Progress)**. **Domain II** is composed of **Part A (Academic Growth)** and **Part B (Relative Performance).** The remaining 30% of the overall rating comes from **Domain III (Closing the Gaps)**.

- School Progress (58) × **70%** = 40.6
- Closing the Gaps (69) × **30%** = 20.7
- **Total = 61.3** (rounds to 61)

Understanding the Penalty Cap

The penalty cap was triggered because LJH scored below 60 in three out of the four domains:

- Domain I: Student Achievement: 57
- Domain II-Part A: Academic Growth: 58
  Domain II- Part B: Relative Performance: 56
- Domain III- Closing the Gaps: **69**

Under current accountability rules, this combination caps the overall score at 59, regardless of the calculated total. It is important to note that **Closing the Gaps earned a strong 69**, reflecting meaningful progress for our student groups.

Why This Matters

This finding underscores a critical reality: **Very small point differences—sometimes just one or two points—can result in significantly different letter grades**, with major implications for public perception and state accountability status.

Both at the campus and district levels, these narrow margins made the difference:

- A **two-point difference** at LJH shifted the letter grade from **D to F**
- A **two-point difference** at the district level impacted the overall rating from a **C to a D**

District-Wide Context

For transparency and perspective:

- The penalty cap applied **only to Lincoln Junior High**
- All other campuses and the district overall were not capped

Uncapped official scores across the district:

- **COCISD:** 71 (C) **Official 2025 A-F Rating: 69 (D)**
- **JSE:** 74 (C) *Second-highest A-F rating since implementation in 2018; highest was **79 (C) in 2022**
- **CIS** 74 (C) *Second-highest A-F rating since implementation in 2018; highest was **79 (C) in 2022**
- **LJH:** 61 (D) **Official 2025 A-F Rating: 59 (F)** The highest A-F rating LJH has ever received was **67 (D) in 2019**. **We will change that this year.**
- **COHS:** 75 (C) *Second-highest A-F rating since implementation in 2018; highest was **77 (C) in 2019**

Moving Forward

As we enter state assessment season, this information should serve as **encouragement, not discouragement**. The data confirms that we are undoubtedly improving academic outcomes for all LJH students, and that focused gains in key areas can produce meaningful results, positioning us to achieve even greater success this year.

Your work in classrooms every day matters. Growth, acceleration, and targeted support for students, especially those approaching key performance thresholds, are exactly where our efforts will continue to make the greatest impact.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, professionalism, and belief in our students. We are confident in the direction we are heading and proud of the progress underway at Lincoln Junior High.

Nothing speaks like results. Let's keep the momentum going and finish the year strong.

With the utmost gratitude, appreciation, and confidence in your work,

Dr. Bryan T. Taulton

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