

EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Office of the Superintendent of Schools

DATE: September 2026

SUBJECT: Strategic Alignment of Goal 1 & Performance Objective 1.1 with TEA Accountability Standards

Executive Summary & Background

Over the past two academic cycles, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD has demonstrated meaningful upward progress in higher-tier academic rigor on state assessments. Driven by district-wide instructional audits and common assessment frameworks, our students achieved consecutive gains in both Meets Grade Level (expanding from 56% to 60%) and Masters Grade Level (expanding from 26% to 31%) performance tiers.

However, under our current monitoring framework—which sets separate annual growth expectations across all three tiers—our baseline Approaches Grade Level performance remained flat at 80%. Under traditional reporting, this plateau at the baseline level results in a "Goal Not Met" evaluation signal, despite substantial instructional growth in advanced academic mastery.

Why We Are Recommending the Shift to the TEA Composite Index

To ensure our board governance metrics accurately evaluate total student achievement without penalizing upper-tier success, the Superintendent recommends updating Goal 1 to align directly with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Domain 1 STAAR Composite Index Score.

1. Eliminates the "Flatline Penalty" for Advanced Mastery:

TEA calculates Domain 1 Student Achievement using the official composite formula:
$$\text{STAAR Composite Index Score} = (\% \text{ Approaches} + \% \text{ Meets} + \% \text{ Masters}) / 3$$

Because STAAR performance tiers are cumulative, an increase in *Meets* and *Masters* performance directly elevates the district's composite score. Over the last two years, CFISD's composite score increased from 54.0 in 2024 to 57.0 in 2026 (+3.0 points). And the 80% floor, mathematically prevents upper-tier gains from masking a decline at the bottom. A drop in passing rates directly drags down the composite score, triggering immediate operational intervention.

2. Direct Alignment with Official State Accountability:

Transitioning our macro goal to a 2029 target composite score of 67.3 (the exact mathematical equivalent of 90% Approaches / 71% Meets / 41% Masters) anchors board monitoring directly to official TEA A–F rating calculations, eliminating disconnects between internal interim metrics and state accountability. Shifting to the composite index raises accountability rather than lowering it. A 67.3 target by 2029 requires Approaches to rise from 80% to 90%, alongside massive expansion in Meets (71%) and Masters (41%). It forces simultaneous progress across every single performance level.

3. **Enforces Operational Focus on High-Need Populations:**

Revising will broaden the goal, ensuring that every underperforming population receives explicit C&I focus, directly addressing the foundational gaps holding back baseline passing rates.