



86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

A-F ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

Advocate for an accountability system that more broadly reviews school performance and includes a family engagement component.

BACKGROUND

- In the 2015 legislative session, lawmakers switched from a pass/fail system of school accountability to a graded system of assessing schools and districts, in part because they thought A-F grades would be easier for parents to understand.
- Texas PTA believes the current system is too dependent on standardized tests and does not accurately reflect how students are being taught in the classroom.
- State-mandated test results are one measure of student progress but should not be the predominant measure to judge schools.
- The lack of a meaningful evaluation of family engagement opportunities in schools is a major concern. Parent involvement is the strongest predictor of student success. Schools should be recognized when they implement meaningful opportunities for parent and family engagement.
- Texas PTA supports implementation of the State Board of Education's (SBOE) Long-Range Plan for Education that recognizes the critical role families play through their involvement in their students' education at all levels. "The SBOE defines family engagement and empowerment as engaging and integrating families and parents in the education of students and facilitating parent and family education to support their children, looking at how the system works or does not work to help families and community members serve as advocates for and partners in the success of the education system."¹
 - The vision and many of the recommendations for family engagement in the plan are based on the National Parent Teacher Association Standards for Family-School Partnerships.²

¹State Board of Education's Long-Range Plan for Education. (2018). Building a Stronger Texas: Long-Range Plan for Public Education. file:///Users/Ellen/Downloads/18-5434_SBOE_LRP_120618.pdf

²National PTA. (n.d.). National standards for family-school partnerships. Retrieved from <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/National-Standards-for-Family-School-Partnerships>