

## **A-F Public School Ratings Narrative:**

Every Texas parent receives letter grades for their students, but no such explicit performance measurement is given to Texas public schools. Currently, the state’s public schools are labeled either “met standard” or “improvement required” — the equivalent of a “pass-fail” rating which lacks the clarity of an A-F rating system. Texas parents need a better way to determine the quality of their schools in order to make the best decision for their child.

Texas should adopt an annual, uniform, and transparent system of public school ratings for districts *and* individual campuses. A-F school ratings will engage parents and communities and can ultimately lead to increased performance among all schools.

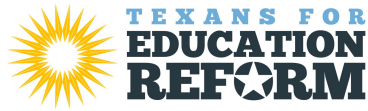
Florida became the first state to adopt A-F school ratings in 1999 as part of a broader package to provide improved transparency for parents and enhance educational outcomes for students. Since 1999, the number of Florida schools rated A or B has increased by 38%.

Over the last decade, fifteen other states have adopted A-F school ratings for both districts and individual school campuses.<sup>1</sup> Feedback from leaders in those states indicates that such a straightforward rating system improves communication<sup>2</sup>, brings stakeholders to the table, and focuses the conversation on achieving excellence in the classroom. Clear and simple A-F school ratings will give Texas parents the information they need to advocate for their kids and their schools.

---

<sup>1</sup> Education Commission of the States. *50-State Analysis of School Accountability “Report Cards” Rating System*. December 2013.

<sup>2</sup> OK Superintendent of Public Instruction was quoted that A-F grades “turbo-charged” the discussion in her state around school quality. *WSJ’s Schools Get Taste of Own Medicine* Jan. 9 2013.



**A-F Public School Ratings Bill Summary:**

- Changes the school rating label used by the state to an A through F rating, making school ratings more transparent for parents and communities.
- Implements A-F school ratings for all districts *and* campuses starting during the 2017-2018 school year.
- In addition to overall district and campus ratings, A-F ratings are applied to the five student achievement performance indicators (e.g., academic proficiency, student growth, and locally selected measures) for each district and campus beginning in 2017-2018.