



Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability Narrative:

For over thirty years, Texas has captured key data for decision makers, communities, school leaders, parents, and students about Texas public school performance through a statewide assessment and accountability system. However, in the past three decades, there have been tremendous advances in the science and technology of learning assessment and Texas is not utilizing those advances.

Today, there are many examples of top-performing schools using adaptive, individualized, secure assessments to increase the pace, quality, and depth of student learning. Such performance data can provide parents and educators with real-time information about student progress while giving the public greater insight into the effectiveness and efficiency of school systems.

The Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability will review the latest research and practices of the most effective school systems and make recommendations for assessments that contribute to daily learning. Students should be able to advance at their own pace and technology now enables such individualization by giving teachers tools for quickly identifying learning gaps and personalizing lessons to address those gaps. The Commission will also look for ways to make assessments more relevant and meaningful – giving students the chance to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a variety of innovative ways such as solving real world problems.

A future system of K-12 accountability should create a fair balance between the needs of the elected officials who make policy and funding decisions, local boards of trustees who require the flexibility to address local educational needs and— most importantly —parents and students, who should receive relevant feedback on the academic achievement of each student, the strengths and weaknesses of their campus and the overall performance of the district in which they live. The Commission will provide a framework and options for a state assessment system that will move Texas into the 21st century.



Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability Bill Summary:

- Legislation creates the Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability to study, develop, and make recommendations for new systems of student assessment and public school accountability.
- Membership of the Commission shall include 15 members with diverse representation:
 - Four appointed by the Governor;
 - Three appointed by the Speaker;
 - Three appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
 - The Chairs of the Senate Committee on Education and Higher Education or designees;
 - The Chairs of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Education and Higher Education or designees;
 - A member of the State Board of Education or designee;
- The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker will ensure that appointments will include the following; a parent, an educator in the public school system, an educator who participates in the Texas High Performing Schools Consortium, a member of the business community, a member of the civic community, a leader in student assessment, a leader in research concerning student assessments and education outcomes.
- The Governor appoints the presiding officer.
- The Commission shall develop recommendations to address:
 - The purpose of a state accountability system and the role of student assessment;
 - Opportunities to assess students in a manner that provides actionable information for parents, educators, and the public and that supports learning activities, allows application of skills and knowledge, and values critical thinking;
 - Alignment of state performance standards with college and career readiness standards in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;
 - Policy changes necessary to enable a student to progress through subject matter and grade levels on demonstration of mastery.
- The Commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the Governor and Legislature that recommends any statutory changes to improve systems of student assessment and school and district accountability by September 1, 2016.