



The TEA's A-F Accountability Ratings Earn an Incomplete

AUSTIN, January 12, 2017 – At the behest of the Legislature, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has graded every Texas school and school district on a scale from A to F. However, according to a new *Smart Steps* issues brief published by Texas Smart Schools (TSS) titled “We Can Do Better than A through F,” TEA’s A-F accountability ratings should receive a grade of Incomplete for only partially considering the widely varied characteristics of Texas schools.

The brief compares and contrasts TEA’s A-F ratings with the Texas Smart Schools’ demographically-adjusted measures that let TSS see success where TEA sees failure. The article points to Floyd Elementary in Mesquite ISD, which is 95% poor and 55% ELL. It received an F, F, and D from TEA for its STARR-related grades but outperformed 94 percent of Texas campuses according to TSS. In fact, many schools that TEA labels with an “F” are top performers once demographics are taken into account in the TSS model. If you want more examples, TSS has plenty—just ask.

Texas Smart Schools says that the bottom line is clear, “As designed, A-F does not measure what every day Texans need to know about how efficiently their education dollars are being spent, and whether or not Texas schools are effectively serving all types of students. We are confident the TSS Smart Scores do the job that A-F cannot.”

To read the article go to <http://txsmartschools.org/highlights/smart-practices/index.php>.

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For more information, contact Texas Smart Schools at (979) 458-3015 or info@txsmartschools.org.