



Leonard Independent School District

#1 Tiger Alley
Leonard, Texas 75452

Brad Maxwell, Superintendent

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Dear LISD Parents and Community Members,

As you may know, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has a new rating system for school districts and campuses that was released today. Despite much concern from educators and stakeholders throughout the state, the A-F Public School Accountability System has been launched. This system relies heavily on the state standardized STAAR tests which are taken once a year. These ratings are supposed to be a simpler way to tell how schools are performing. However, the process is complicated and is comprised of many various calculations in order to figure the final grade or rating. Unlike a grade earned in a class over a six weeks, semester or entire year, which represents the average score of the work completed from a variety of learning opportunities, this new system assigns a letter grade calculated primarily from student performance on the STAAR tests.

At the elementary, intermediate and junior high levels, school ratings are based entirely on performance on STAAR tests data, while high school ratings include these same test scores along with college, career and military readiness and graduation rates taken from data from the class that graduated the year prior (example – this year the state used data from the graduating class of 2017).

Leonard ISD continues to strive to meet all of the state accountability standards set forth over the years. Unfortunately, with the new rating system our district had an overall letter grade of a D. All LISD campuses Met Standard; however, the state compiled all of the campus numbers into a formula to determine the district grade. Our district and community will not be defined by this letter grade. This rating will not be a measurement of the hard work of our students and staff throughout the year, nor does it show the learning experiences and educational opportunities our kids receive on a daily basis in the classroom and beyond.

As a district, our 2018 STAAR scores showed improvement from the previous year at the passing standard. Leonard ISD students increased their overall passing rate in reading, math, writing, and science. However, in the School Progress component measured from a student's individual test performance from year to year, and the Closing the Gap domain which encompasses categories such as economically disadvantaged, race/ethnicity, special education, etc., we will continue making progress. These domains will be focal points to us in the future and will be targeted areas we strive to improve based on these results.

LISD had some bright spots throughout the district that I believe are important to point out. Our elementary campus scored an 87 overall and earned distinction designation honors in reading, postsecondary readiness and comparative closing the gaps. Our intermediate campus improved in all areas tested from the previous year, while our junior high saw an increase in relative performance and our high school had gains in academic growth. There are numerous other areas to highlight all over our district that can't be measured by the STAAR test.

Leonard ISD will use the A-F information as one of several indicators to make all of our campuses better as we continue to put our students first. We appreciate your support throughout the 2018-19 school year.

Sincerely,

Brad Maxwell
Leonard ISD Superintendent