

Evaluating Community and Student Engagement

The state has added a new component to its accountability system: evaluating Texas school districts and individual campuses on how well they engage the community and students.

Under this system, which is based on District-developed criteria, NISD earned an overall rate of Recognized for the 2016-2017 school year.

About the new system

- The 83rd Texas Legislature, through House Bill 5 (HB 5), added Section 39.0545 to the Texas Education Code (TEC).
- This section requires school districts to evaluate performance in community and student engagement, as well as in compliance with state reporting requirements, for the District as a whole and for each of its campuses.
- For the evaluation, districts must use criteria developed by a local committee and must assign an overall rating and a rating for each criteria at both the District and campus levels.
- Ratings must be publicly reported no later than Aug. 8 of each year.

Factors used in the evaluation

The following factors were used in evaluating NISD's performance in community and student engagement:

1. Community and parental involvement
2. Fine arts
3. Wellness and physical education
4. 21st-century workforce development programs
5. Second-language acquisition programs
6. Digital learning environment
7. Dropout prevention strategies
8. Gifted & talented programs
9. History of compliance with statutory reporting requirements

What are the ratings categories?

There are five possible ratings a District and individual campuses can receive for Factors 1-8. They are: Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable, Unacceptable or Not Applicable.

A rating label of Yes or No will be assigned for Factor 9, history of compliance with statutory reporting requirements.

How were the criteria for these ratings developed?

The legislation mandated the criteria for evaluation must be developed by a committee. In Nordheim ISD, the local committee consisted of an elementary teacher, secondary teacher, para-professional, principal, superintendent, community member, and parent.