

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.S.B. 6
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Education
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Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, the state's public schools are labeled either "met standard" or "improvement required" (the equivalent of a "pass-fail" rating). Beginning in 2016, individual campuses will be labeled using four different category rankings of "exemplary," "recognized," "acceptable," and "unacceptable." These four designations lack the clarity of an A-F rating system. C.S.S.B. 6 provides Texas parents with a more transparent way to determine the quality of their local schools in order to make the best decision for their child.

Key Points:

- Last session the legislature voted to rate districts on an A-F rating in H.B. 5. Although the bill also included an A-F rating for campuses as passed on the floor of the House and Senate, the campus rating was removed during the Conference Committee.
- C.S.S.B. 6 changes the campus rating label used by the state to an A-F rating, making campus ratings more transparent for parents and communities.

Over the last decade, 16 states have adopted A-F ratings for campuses. In the first few years of implementation in Florida, D and F campuses outnumbered A and B campuses. By 2013, 59 percent of campuses in Florida had earned an A or B.

C.S.S.B. 6 amends current law relating to public school performance ratings.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority previously granted to the commissioner of education is modified in SECTION 1 (Section 39.054, Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 39.054, Education Code, by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1), as follows:

(a) Requires the commissioner of education (commissioner) to adopt rules to evaluate school district and campus performance and assign each district and campus a performance rating of A, B, C, D, or F. Provides that a district or campus performance rating of A reflects exemplary performance. Provides that a district or campus performance rating of B reflects recognized performance. Provides that a district or campus performance rating of C, rather than B or C, reflects acceptable performance. Provides that a district or campus performance rating of D or F reflects unacceptable performance. Provides that a district may not receive a performance rating of A if the district includes any campus with a performance rating of D or F, rather than a performance rating of unacceptable. Provides that a reference in law to an acceptable rating or acceptable performance includes a performance rating of A or B or exemplary or recognized performance.

Deletes existing text requiring the commissioner to also assign each campus a performance rating of exemplary, recognized, acceptable, or unacceptable, and deletes

existing text providing that a campus performance rating of exemplary, recognized, or acceptable reflects acceptable performance, and a campus performance rating of unacceptable reflects unacceptable performance. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

(a-1) Creates this subsection from existing text. Requires that the performance rating of each district and campus, not later than August 8 of each year, be made publicly available as provided by rules adopted under this section, rather than subsection. Requires the commissioner, if a district or campus received a performance rating of D or F, rather than if a district or campus received a performance rating that reflected unacceptable performance, for the preceding school year, to notify the district of a subsequent such designation on or before June 15.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2015.