

Adding a new metric to the public school accountability system

HB 1500 by Giddings (West)

DIGEST: HB 1500 would have expanded the performance metrics used to evaluate public schools under the state accountability system. It would have required the Commissioner of Education to determine a method to attribute greater weight to a student's performance for each school year the student had been continuously enrolled in the district or at the campus and would have permitted the commissioner to adjust the overall performance rating of a district or campus under certain circumstances.

A district or campus that received a D rating would have been required to develop and implement a targeted improvement plan approved by the district's board of trustees. Education Code interventions and sanctions would have applied to districts or campuses ordered to implement a targeted improvement plan only if the district or campus was assigned an overall or domain performance rating of F or met other circumstances, including under certain circumstances receiving a D rating in consecutive school years.

GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO: "In 2015, the Texas Legislature prioritized parental engagement and increased transparency by developing an A through F grading system for school districts and campuses. House Bill 22, which I have signed, makes positive changes to the existing A through F system. House Bill 22 ensures students, parents, and taxpayers know how well our schools are doing. It also aligns the new grading system with Texas' sanction and intervention strategies. House Bill 1500 is based on the existing grading system and conflicts with House Bill 22."

RESPONSE: **Rep. Helen Giddings**, the bill's author, said: "Although the governor signed legislation incorporating many elements of HB 1500 into law, I was nonetheless disappointed by his decision to not include all of the bill's language into statute. HB 1500 included turnaround language requiring the Commissioner of Education to notify districts in writing when their campus turnaround plans are approved. That would have been tremendously helpful to districts who are often not given proper communication about this process. Additionally, HB 1500 included many additional indicators that districts would have received credit for in Domain IV of the accountability system that were not included in statute. If enacted in full, HB 1500 would have ensured our school accountability system painted a more complete picture of districts' achievements."

Sen. Royce West, the Senate sponsor, had no comment on the veto.

NOTES: [HB 1500](#) was digested in Part Four of the May 2 *Daily Floor Report*.