

**NEWS  
RELEASE  
FROM:**

*Dripping Springs*

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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## **DSISD BOARD PASSES RESOLUTION ON A-F ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas—The Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution at its Dec. 12 meeting concerning the A-F accountability rating system for Texas public schools. In doing so, DSISD joins other districts across Texas calling for repeal of that system, which will be implemented in the 2017-18 school year as part of House Bill 2804, passed by the Legislature in 2015.

The resolution notes that, despite A-F rating systems being implemented in 16 other states, there is no evidence that these systems have helped to improve student or school performance. It points out that the majority of the grades assigned by the A-F rating system will be based on students' scores on the STAAR, a standardized test viewed as unreliable for accurately measuring student learning, and that an overwhelming majority of Texans recently surveyed by the State Board of Education have said they do not want standardized test scores to serve as the primary basis for Texas' school accountability system.

“Dripping Springs ISD will likely be an “A” district under the A-F accountability system,” noted Superintendent Bruce Gearing. “However, we will not celebrate this designation because the system that assigns the grade is fundamentally flawed. Districts should be allowed to exercise local control and develop Community-Based Accountability Systems that take multiple measures of student learning and success into account.”

The resolution also notes the flaws of A-F systems: They require a complex set of rules and calculations to combine a multitude of disparate measures into a single, “simple” letter grade that cannot be supported with explanation, are useless for providing feedback that could be used for improvement, and usually align with the wealth or poverty of the students in the school.

The resolution offers an alternative to the A-F rating system: development of a community-based accountability system that empowers districts to design their own systems of assessment and accountability that, while meeting general state standards, allows innovation and customization to match the needs and interests of the local community.

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