

Gregory-Portland Independent School District House Bill 5 - Community and Student Engagement



Texas campuses and districts are required by House Bill 5, Section 46, to engage in self-evaluation of Community and Student Engagement by gauging the effectiveness of nine areas of performance: fine arts; wellness and physical education; community and parental involvement; the 21st Century Workforce Development program; the second language acquisition program; the digital learning environment; dropout prevention strategies; educational programs for gifted and talented students, and the record of the district and each campus regarding compliance with statutory reporting and policy requirements.

The law states that the evaluation must result in assigning the district and each campus a performance rating of exemplary, recognized, acceptable, or unacceptable for each individual evaluation factor and for overall performance. Furthermore, the Texas Education Agency determined that there may be instances where a campus or district may report “not applicable” for a particular category of performance, and that the campuses and districts will evaluate their record regarding compliance with statutory reporting and policy requirements with a “yes” or “no.”

The law also states that districts must determine the membership of the evaluation committee. In Gregory-Portland ISD, we utilized the following stakeholders in our evaluation team: Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) committees at the Campus and District levels, administrators, parents, community members, and teachers. We also publicized and conducted an online survey soliciting input from community, parents, and students. The law states that the criteria used to rate each program area must be developed locally. It is important to note that Community and Student Engagement ratings cannot be compared across school districts because there are no state criteria. Each district determines its own evaluation criteria. A program rating of “exemplary” in one district may be based on dramatically different criteria than that of another district. The accountability ratings assigned to campuses and districts each year by the Texas Education Agency are based primarily on student performance on STAAR, a standardized test. While STAAR results provide a snapshot of one day in the lives of our students, evaluation of Community and Student Engagement provides a unique opportunity to engage in authentic identification of priorities, successes, and needs in programs areas that support student achievement as measured by STAAR. In Gregory-Portland ISD, a team of administrators examined a wide continuum of criteria on which to rank each of the campuses in the nine areas of performance.

Gregory-Portland ISD has completed these requirements since their inception in the 2013-14 school year. The attached document (**House Bill 5 – Community and Student Engagement Report**) summarizes the most current results, including final program and overall ratings, for our campuses and district.