


Financial Allocation Study for Texas

Region One Education Service Center
October 14, 2011

www.FASTexas.org

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HB 3, Section 39.0821

a) The comptroller shall identify school districts and campuses that use resource allocation practices that contribute to high academic achievement and cost-effective operations. In identifying districts and campuses under this section, the comptroller shall:

- 1) evaluate existing academic accountability and financial data by integrating the data;
- 2) rank the results of the evaluation under Subdivision (1) to identify the relative performance of districts and campuses; and
- 3) identify potential areas for district and campus improvement.

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HB 3, Section 39.0821



b) In reviewing resource allocation practices of districts and campuses under this section, the comptroller shall ensure resources are being used for the instruction of students by evaluating:

- 1) the operating cost for each student;
- 2) the operating cost for each program; and
- 3) the staffing cost for each student.

FAST Rating Overview



- FAST ratings range from one to five stars
- Ratings consist of two components
 - Academic Progress
 - Measures annual progress
 - All students are comparable
 - Three-year averages
 - Spending Index
 - Measures adjusted spending
 - Campuses and districts rated against fiscal peers
 - Three-year averages

Academic Progress



- Student progress in math and reading combined to create composite academic progress indicator.
- The methodology used to develop these measures is a version of what is often referred to as a “value-added” methodology.
- Academic progress is relative to all other districts or campuses in the state.
- Academic progress scores are percentiles, ranging from 1 to 99.

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Academic Progress



- The academic progress measures are based on annual student academic progress averaged over three years.
- These academic progress measures control for various demographic factors that can influence student performance, such as economic disadvantage, limited English proficiency, etc.
- Controlling for these factors ensures that districts and campuses are evaluated based on what they contribute to academic growth.

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Fiscal Peers



- Education costs depend on a variety of factors outside of school district control; it would not be fair or appropriate to compare all of the school districts in Texas to one another.
- Instead, FAST evaluates each district and campus against those identified as “fiscal peers,” districts and campuses that operate in a similar cost environment, are of similar size and serve similar students.
- An innovative grouping methodology called “propensity-score matching” was used to identify up to 40 fiscal peers for each campus and district in Texas.

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Spending Index



- Once district or campus fiscal peers are determined, a spending index score is assigned.
- The spending index is a measure of a district's or campus's spending *relative to its set of fiscal peers*.
- Spending index uses “core operating expenditures” adjusted by a wage index.
- Averaged over three years.

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FAST Ratings



COMPOSITE ACADEMIC PROGRESS PERCENTILE + SPENDING INDEX = FAST RATING

		SPENDING INDEX				
		"VERY HIGH"	"HIGH"	"AVERAGE"	"LOW"	"VERY LOW"
COMPOSITE ACADEMIC PROGRESS PERCENTILE	● 80-99	3 STARS ★★★★☆	3½ STARS ★★★★☆	4 STARS ★★★★☆	4½ STARS ★★★★☆	5 STARS ★★★★☆
	● 60-79	2½ STARS ★★★☆☆	3 STARS ★★★★☆	3½ STARS ★★★★☆	4 STARS ★★★★☆	4½ STARS ★★★★☆
	○ 40-59	2 STARS ★★★☆☆	2½ STARS ★★★☆☆	3 STARS ★★★★☆	3½ STARS ★★★★☆	4 STARS ★★★★☆
	◐ 20-39	1½ STARS ★★☆☆☆	2 STARS ★★★☆☆	2½ STARS ★★★☆☆	3 STARS ★★★★☆	3½ STARS ★★★★☆
	● LESS THAN 20	1 STARS ★★☆☆☆	1½ STARS ★★☆☆☆	2 STARS ★★★☆☆	2½ STARS ★★★☆☆	3 STARS ★★★★☆

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Web Tool Information



- FAST web tool allows custom comparisons.
- The web tool contains FAST ratings and additional indicators.
- Methodology, results and data are available free of charge.
- www.FASTexas.org

Web Tool Example

The screenshot displays the FAST Texas web tool interface for Angleton ISD. On the left is the Texas State Comptroller's seal. The main content area includes a navigation menu (Overview, Academics, Financial, Demographics) and a summary table for Angleton ISD. Below the table are several bar charts for TAKS and Progress Percentile scores, and a scatter plot titled 'Angleton ISD with Comparable Districts' showing Academic Progress (0-100) on the y-axis and Spending Index (Very High to Very Low) on the x-axis. A slider at the bottom allows filtering by star rating (All, 1-5).

Angleton ISD	FAST Rating
Total Enrollment	8,249
Passing TAKS	86%
Composite Academic Progress Percentile	87
Reading Progress Percentile	85
Math Progress Percentile	95
Cost Adjusted Spending Per Pupil	\$6,300
Spending Index	Very Low
Accountability Rating	Recognized

TAKS (all tests) 74% (State)

- Passing (all tests): 86%
- Commended (all tests): 20%

Progress Percentile

- Composite Academic Progress: 87
- Reading Progress: 85
- Math Progress: 95

Spending

- Spending Index: Very Low

Questions?

The slide features the Texas State Comptroller's seal on the left. The main content area contains the website URL www.FASTexas.org, the Data Services Division, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and the email address fastexas@cpa.state.tx.us. A large, faint star graphic is visible in the background.