Appendix E—Campus Comparison Groups

Each campus is assigned to a unique comparison group made up of Texas schools that are most similar to it. To determine the campus comparison group, each campus is identified by school type (See the School Types chart in Chapter 1 for more information.) then grouped with 40 other campuses from anywhere in Texas that are most similar in grade levels served, size, percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged, mobility rate, percentage of emergent bilingual students/English learners (ELs), percentage of students served by special education, and percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program. Each campus has only one unique campus comparison group. There is no limit on the number of comparison groups to which a campus may be a member. It is possible for a campus to be a member of no comparison group other than its own or a member of several comparison groups.

Campus Comparison Groups: Demographic Characteristics

Demographic characteristics used to construct campus comparison groups include those defined in state statute and others that are statistically relevant to performance:

> Campus type—elementary, middle, high school, or combined elementary/secondary (based on TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment)

> Grade levels served—lowest grade level and highest grade level enrollment (based on TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment)

> Campus size—total student enrollment (based on TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment)

> Percentage of students identified as economically disadvantaged (based on TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment)

> Percentage of students identified as emergent bilingual students/ELs (based on TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment)

> Percentage of students identified as mobile (based on TSDS PEIMS prior year attendance)

> Percentage of students served by special education (based on TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment)

> Percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program (based on TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment)

Methodology

A unique comparison group is created for each campus by applying the following methodology:

Step 1: Group all eligible campuses (see below) by campus type: elementary, middle, high, or elementary/secondary.

Step 2: Determine the linear values for each of the demographic characteristics used to construct the campus comparison group.

Step 3: Compute the linear distance (the square root of the sum of the squared differences of the campus demographic characteristics) from the target campus.

Step 4: Select the 40 campuses with the smallest distance value from the target campus.

Eligible Campuses

Campus comparison groups are created for all campuses with the following exceptions:

Campuses evaluated under alternative education accountability provisions are not eligible for distinction designations and, therefore, are not assigned a campus comparison group.

Campuses that are not rated are ineligible for distinction designations and, therefore, are not assigned a campus comparison group. There are several reasons a campus is not rated, such as the campus has insufficient data or it is a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, Disciplinary Alternative Education Program, or a residential treatment facility.

Uniform Linear Values

Campus comparison groups are determined by a distance formula that requires a consistent range of linear (or continuous) values for each demographic characteristic. The percentage of economically disadvantaged students, percentage of emergent bilingual students/ELs, percentage of students who are mobile, percentage of students served by special education, and percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program are considered linear values within the consistent range of zero to 100. The remaining demographic values are transformed into linear values within the same range in the following ways:

Elementary School Example

For campuses under consideration, the linear distance (the square root of the sum of the squared differences of the campus characteristics) from the target campus is computed.

Campus	Campus Size (Total Student Enrollment)	% Eco Dis	% EB/EL	% Mobile	% SpEd	% ECHS	Low Grade	High Grade
(Target) Campus A	237	42.2	0.4	22.0	9.3	0	PK	05
Campus B	543	42.6	4.2	15.1	8.1	0	EE	05

Linear Distance[1] =

$$[((100 \times (237/3419)) - (100 \times (543/3419)))^2 + (42.2 - 42.6)^2 + (0.4 - 4.2)^2 + (22.0 - 15.1)^2 + (9.3 - 8.1)^2 + (0 - 0)^2 + (0 - 0)^2 + (((2/9) \times 100) - ((2/9) \times 100))^2]$$

$$[(-9)^2 + (-0.4)^2 + (-3.8)^2 + (6.9)^2 + (1.2)^2 + (0)^2 + (0)^2 + (0)^2]$$

$$= \overline{144.65}$$

$$= 12$$

After calculating the linear distance from the target campus, the 40 campuses with the least distance are included in the campus comparison group.

[1]In this sample calculation, the maximum campus size for elementary schools was 3,419. The applicable campus sizes reported for the current year are provided in the preceding section, Comparison Group Methodology for Computing the Linear Distance Among Campuses, of this appendix.