

## Chapter 6—Distinction Designations

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Districts and campuses that demonstrate acceptable performance are eligible to earn distinction designations. Acceptable performance is defined as an overall rating of A, B, or C for 2022.

Distinction designations are awarded for achievement in several areas and are based on performance relative to a group of campuses of similar type, size, grade span, and student demographics.

### Distinction Designations

For 2022, distinction designations are awarded in the following areas:

- Academic Achievement in English Language Arts/Reading (campus only)
- Academic Achievement in Mathematics (campus only)
- Academic Achievement in Science (campus only)
- Academic Achievement in Social Studies (campus only)
- Top 25 Percent: Comparative Academic Growth (campus only)
- Top 25 Percent: Comparative Closing the Gaps (campus only)
- Postsecondary Readiness (district and campus)

### Distinction Designation Labels

The Distinction Designation Reports show one of the following labels for each distinction designation:

**Distinction Earned.** The district or campus demonstrates acceptable performance and meets the criteria for the distinction designation.

**No Distinction Earned.** The district or campus does not demonstrate acceptable performance or does not meet the criteria for the distinction designation.

**Not Eligible.** The district or campus does not have results to evaluate for the distinction designation, is not rated, is evaluated by alternative education accountability (AEA) provisions, or is a campus paired with a feeder campus for accountability evaluation.

### Campus Comparison Groups

Each campus is assigned to a unique comparison group comprised 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—2022 Accountability Overview” 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, percentage of students receiving special education services, and percentage of students enrolled in an Early College High School program. Each campus has only one

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the indicator, it cannot be used to evaluate campuses for the distinction. This often affects campuses with non-traditional grade spans.

When campuses have scores that tie in the Top 25 Percent: Comparative Academic Growth and Top 25 Percent: Comparative Closing the Gaps distinctions, the top ten campuses in the group are awarded the distinction. If the tie occurs at the ten-campus point, the campuses that tie with campus ten will be awarded the distinction.

Campuses will not have access to the performance data of other campuses and will not know where they rank in their comparison groups until the public release of all accountability data.

For details on how campus comparison groups are constructed, please see Appendix E.

## Academic Achievement in English Language Arts/Reading

An Academic Achievement Distinction Designation (AADD) is awarded to campuses for outstanding achievement in ELA/reading based on outcomes of several performance indicators.

Who is Eligible: Campuses that demonstrate acceptable performance.

Student Groups: Performance of only the all students group is used.

Minimum Size: Minimum size is determined separately for each indicator.

Attendance Rate. Minimum size is based on total days in membership. If a campus has fewer than 1,800 total days in membership (e.g., 10 students x 180 school days) attendance cannot be used to evaluate the campus for this distinction.

Assessments (STAAR, AP/IB, SAT, and/or ACT). Minimum size is 10 students for each assessment. If a campus has fewer than 10 test takers for an assessment, any indicator relying on that assessment cannot be used to evaluate the campus for this distinction.

Participation.

- AP/IB: ELA. Minimum size is 10 students enrolled in grades 11 and 12.
- Advanced/Dual-Credit Course Completion: ELA/Reading. Minimum size is 10 students in grades 9 through 12 who complete at least one course.
- SAT/ACT Participation. Minimum size is 10 reported annual graduates.

AADD ELA/Reading Indicators:

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SAT/ACT Participation

Average SAT Score: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)

Average ACT Score: ELA

Advanced/Dual-Credit Course Completion Rate: ELA/Reading (grades 9–12)

Methodology:

Step 1: Determine a campus' performance on each indicator that applies to it and for which it has data.

Step 2: Compare that campus' performance for each indicator within the campus comparison group.

Step 3: Determine if the campus is in the top 25 percent of its campus comparison group.

- High schools and combined elementary/secondary schools (K–12) must be in the top quartile (Q1) for 33 percent or more of all the indicators for which they have data.
- Middle schools, junior high K–12, and high schools must be in the top 25 percent of their campus comparison group.



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Attendance Rate. This is based on student attendance for the entire school year for students in grades 1–12. The attendance rate indicator applies to all four subject area distinctions.

Sole Indicator. Attendance Rate cannot be the sole indicator used by a campus to attain an AADD; however, a campus may earn an AADD based on another sole indicator.

## Academic Achievement in Science

An AADD is awarded to campuses for outstanding achievement in science based on outcomes of several performance indicators.

Who is Eligible: Campuses that demonstrate acceptable performance.

Student Groups: Performance of only the all students group is used.

Minimum Size: Minimum size is determined separately for each indicator.

Attendance Rate. Minimum size is based on total days in membership. If a campus has fewer than 1,800 total days in membership (e.g., 10 students x 180 school days) attendance cannot be used to evaluate the campus for this distinction.

Assessments (STAAR, AP/IB, and/or ACT). Minimum size is 10 students for each assessment. If a campus has fewer than 10 test takers for an assessment, any indicator relying on that assessment cannot be used to evaluate the campus for this distinction.

Participation.

- AP/IB: Science. Minimum size is 10 students enrolled in grades 11 and 12.
- Advanced/Dual-Credit Course Completion: Science. Minimum size is 10 students in grades 9 through 12 who complete at least one course.

### AADD Science Indicators:

Attendance Rate

Grade 5 Science Performance (Masters Grade Level)

Grade 8 Science Performance (Masters Grade Level)

EOC Biology Performance (Masters Grade Level)

ACT Results for Accelerated Testers (Masters Grade Level)

AP/IB Examination Participation: Science

AP/IB Examination Results (Examinees  $\geq$  Criterion): Science

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**Other information:**

**Advanced/Dual-Credit Course Completion: Science.** The advanced/dual-credit course completion rate for science includes students enrolled in grades 9 through 12.

**Assessments.** A complete list of AP and IB assessments used to award this distinction is available in Appendix H.

**Attendance Rate.** This is based on student attendance for the entire school year for students in grades 1–12. The attendance rate indicator applies to all four subject area distinctions.

**Sole Indicator.** Attendance Rate cannot be the sole indicator used by a campus to attain an AADD; however, a campus may earn an AADD based on another sole indicator.

## Academic Achievement in Social Studies

An AADD is awarded to campuses for outstanding achievement in social studies based on outcomes of several performance indicators.

**Who is Eligible:** Campuses that demonstrate acceptable performance.

**Student Groups:** Performance of only the all students group is used.

**Minimum Size:** Minimum size is determined separately for each indicator.

**Attendance Rate.** Minimum size is based on total days in membership. If a campus has fewer than 1,800 total days in membership (e.g., 10 students x 180 school days) attendance cannot be used to evaluate the campus for this distinction.

**Assessments (STAAR and/or AP/IB).** Minimum size is 10 students for each assessment. If a campus has fewer than 10 test takers for an assessment, any indicator relying on that assessment cannot be used to evaluate the campus for this distinction.

**Participation.**

- AP/IB: Social Studies

Please







