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What is School FIRST?

- The state's school financial accountability rating system - School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST).
- Ensures that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve these practices.
- Designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.
- School districts are required to hold a public meeting to present their financial rating and reports.

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School FIRST Objectives

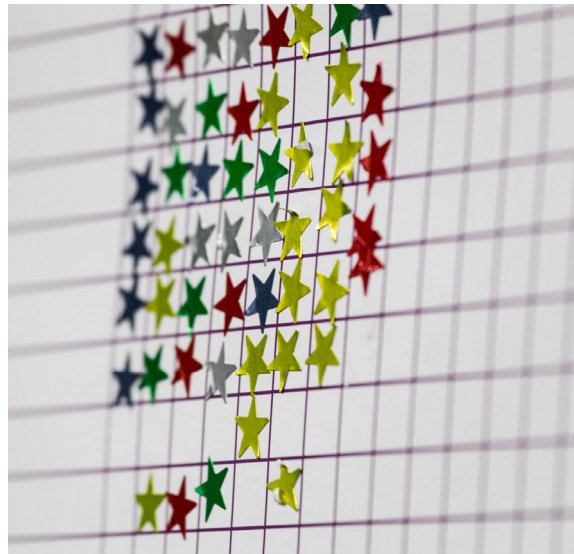
- Simple and understandable
- Applicable to all districts
- Based on actual data (PEIMS & Annual Financial Report)
- Analyzes financial management efficiencies
- Early warning signs of financial distress
- Transparency

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Determination of School FIRST Rating

Determine the rating by the applicable number of points:

- A = Superior Achievement 90-100
- B = Above Standard Achievement 80-89
- C = Meets Standard Achievement 70-79
- F = Substandard Achievement



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SCHOOL FIRST RATING SYSTEM

21 Indicators

2 Indicators not scored

GCCISD received max points on
17 of the 19 scored indicators

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CATEGORIES OF INDICATORS


Critical Indicators

- Annual financial report filed by deadline to TEA
- Unmodified opinion on annual financial audit report
- Compliance with payment terms of all debt agreements
- Timely payments to state and federal agencies

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CATEGORIES OF INDICATORS (CONT.)

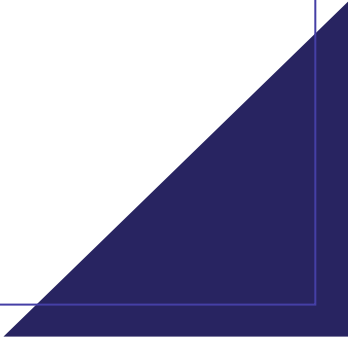
Solvency Indicators

- Total net position
 - Average change in fund balance
 - Days of cash on hand
 - Current assets to current liabilities
 - Revenues to expenses
 - Budgeted to actual revenues (not scored this year)
 - Long-term liabilities to total assets
 - Correlation between future debt requirements & assessed property value
 - Administrative cost ratio
 - Student to staff ratio
- 

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CATEGORIES OF INDICATORS (CONT.)

Financial Competency Indicators


- Actual ADA to pupil projections (not scored this year)
 - PEIMS to Annual Financial Report variance
 - Material weakness
 - Material noncompliance
 - Financial transparency
 - Impact to funding discussion
 - FSP repayment plan (new indicator)
- 

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2023 - 2024 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Based on School Year 2022 - 2023 Data				
#	Criteria Description	Current Year Score (2023-2024)	Previous Year Score (2022-2023)	
1	Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to the TEA within 30 days of the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending on the school district's fiscal year end date of June 30 or August 31, respectively?	Yes	Yes	
2	Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole? (The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) defines unmodified opinion. The external independent auditor determines if there was an unmodified opinion.)	Yes	Yes	
3	Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end? (If the school district was in default in a prior fiscal year, an exemption applies in following years if the school district is current on its forbearance or payment plan with the lender and the payments are made on schedule for the fiscal year being rated. Also exempted are technical defaults that are not related to monetary defaults. A technical default is a failure to uphold the terms of a debt covenant, contract, or master promissory note even though payments to the lender, trust, or sinking fund are current. A debt agreement is a legal agreement between a debtor (- person, company, etc. that owes money) and their creditors, which includes a plan for paying back the debt.)	Yes	Yes	
4	Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other government agencies? (If the school district received a warrant hold and the warrant hold was not cleared within 30 days from the date the warrant hold was issued, the school district is considered to not have made timely payments and will fail critical indicator 4. If the school district was issued a warrant hold, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 95 points, A = Superior Achievement, even if the issue surrounding the initial warrant hold was resolved and cleared within 30 days.)	Yes Ceiling Passed	Yes Ceiling Passed	
5	Was the total net position in the governmental activities column in the Statement of Net Position (net of accretion of interest for capital appreciation bonds, net pension liability, and other post-employment benefits) greater than zero? (If it is not, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement, unless the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership. If the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)	Ceiling Passed	N/A*	
6	Was the average change in (assigned and unassigned) fund balances over 3 years less than a 25 percent decrease or did the current year's assigned and unassigned fund balances exceed 75 days of operational expenditures? (If the school district fails indicator 6, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)	Ceiling Passed	Ceiling Passed	
7	Was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the school district sufficient to cover operating expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	10	10	
8	Was the measure of current assets to current liabilities ratio for the school district sufficient to cover short-term debt? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	10	10	
9	Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? If not, was the school district's number of days of cash on hand greater than or equal to 60 days? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	10	10	
10	This indicator is not being evaluated.	10*	10*	
11	Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency? (If the school district's increase of students in membership over 5 years was 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, then the school district passes this indicator.)	8	8	
12	What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value?	10	8	
13	Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	8	8	
14	Did the school district not have a 25 percent decline in the students to staff ratio over 3 years (total enrollment to total staff)? If the student enrollment did not decrease, the school district will automatically pass this indicator.	10	10*	
15	This indicator is not being evaluated.	5*	5*	
16	Did the comparison of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to like information in the school district's AFR result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function? (If the school district fails indicator 16, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)	Ceiling Passed	Ceiling Passed	
17	Did the external independent auditor report that the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and compliance for local, state, or federal funds and free from substantial doubt about the school district's ability to continue as a going concern? (The AICPA defines material weakness.) (If the school district fails indicator 17, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement.)	Ceiling Passed	Ceiling Passed	
18	Did the external independent auditor indicate the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material noncompliance for grants, contracts, and laws related to local, state, or federal funds? (The AICPA defines material noncompliance.)	10	10	
19	Did the school district post the required financial information on its website in accordance with Government Code, Local Government Code, Texas Education Code, Texas Administrative Code and other statutes, laws and rules that were in effect at the school district's fiscal year end?	5	5	
20	Did the school district's administration and school board members discuss any changes and/or impact to local, state, and federal funding at a board meeting within 120 days before the district adopted its budget?	Ceiling Passed	Ceiling Passed	
21	Did the school district receive an adjusted repayment schedule for more than one fiscal year for an over-allocation of Foundation School Program (FSP) funds because of a financial hardship?	Ceiling Passed	N/A	
* Indicator not evaluated: maximum points awarded.		TOTAL SCORE	96	94

FIRST RATING WORKSHEET

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GOOSE CREEK
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

“A”

RATED

FOR SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT

22 CONSECUTIVE YEARS!

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Questions



SCHOOL
FIRST
FINANCIAL INTEGRITY RATING SYSTEM OF TEXAS

GOOSE CREEK CISD • DEVELOPING THE W