

# Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) At a Glance

## AEA 2026 Accountability Overview

Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) evaluates campuses that primarily serve students at risk of dropping out. Unlike standard accountability, AEA uses modified methodologies to appropriately credit campuses for supporting nontraditional student populations across all three accountability domains.<sup>1</sup> This document summarizes the modifications applied to the 2026 accountability system for campuses evaluated under AEA provisions. For AEA eligibility and Dropout Recovery School (DRS) criteria, see [Chapter 7 of the 2026 Accountability Rating System Manual](#).

### Domain 1: Student Achievement

**AEA STAAR Rate** applies weighted scoring to credit students exceeding the passing standard, using the same performance level cut points as non-AEA campuses:

- All tests at Approaches Grade Level or above earn full credit
- Higher performance levels receive additional weight: x1.1 for Meets, x1.2 for Masters

**AEA CCMR Rate** is adjusted to credit previous dropouts who achieve a CCMR indicator:

- One point for each annual graduate meeting any CCMR indicator
- Previous dropouts are included in the numerator only

**AEA Graduation/Annual Dropout Rate** is adjusted to credit graduates, continuers, TxCHSE recipients, and previous dropouts who complete:

- Highest of four-, five-, or six-year completion rates are used
- Previous dropouts are included in the numerator only
- If no combined rate is available, the Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate is used

**DRS Safeguard** is applied for campuses without a longitudinal graduation rate

- The higher score from calculating STAAR, CCMR, AND Annual Dropout Rate or STAAR and CCMR alone will be used

### Domain 2: School Progress

**Part A: Academic Growth** uses the same methodology as non-AEA campuses to measure year-to-year academic improvement. See [Chapter 3 of the 2026 Accountability Rating System Manual](#).

**Part B: Retest Growth** replaces Relative Performance for AEA. The domain score is the better of Part A: Academic Growth or Part B: Retest Growth. Part B measures the following for all students:

- Percentage of students who earned Approaches Grade Level or above on an EOC retest during the current accountability cycle
- Performance for students who previously failed an EOC assessment and successfully passed it during the summer, fall, or spring administrations of the current year. For qualifying assessments, see [Chapter 3 of the 2026 Accountability Rating System Manual](#)
- Provides credit for successfully recovering students who were previously unsuccessful on state assessments

### Domain 3: Closing the Gaps

This domain uses the same methodology as non-AEA high schools and K-12 campuses and uses the same targets and student group definitions, as is required by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) under the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). See [Chapter 4 of the 2026 Accountability Rating System Manual](#).

**School Improvement** for Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) identifies AEA campuses based on performance relative to other AEA campuses, with campuses in the lowest 5% identified for CSI.