

**IMPORTANT  
ACCREDITATION  
INFORMATION**

February 4, 2013

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

Subject: Assignment of district accreditation statuses for the 2012-2013 school year

The purpose of this letter is to notify districts, including charter schools, that, under the authority of Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.116 and 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §97.1055, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will not assign accreditation statuses to districts for the 2012-2013 year.

TEC §39.116 and 19 TAC §97.1055 provide for the suspension of accreditation statuses during the period of transition to the accreditation system established under House Bill 3, Acts of the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009. Pursuant to the TEA's House Bill 3 Transition Plan, the TEA did not assign academic accountability ratings for 2011-2012 in preparation for the transition to the new accountability system, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). Because student performance is a key indicator in the state accreditation system, and because that data is not available due to the transition to STAAR, the TEA will suspend the assignment of accreditation statuses until the 2013-2014 school year. For purposes of determining multiple years of academically unacceptable or insufficient performance, the academic accountability ratings issued for the 2010-2011 school year and the 2012-2013 school year are consecutive. 19 TAC §97.1055(a)(8). In addition, the accreditation statuses issued for the 2011-2012 school year and for the 2013-2014 school year are consecutive. 19 TAC §97.1055(a)(9).

Districts, including charter schools, that would have been assigned a status of Accredited- Warned, Accredited-Probation, or Not Accredited-Revoked for the 2012-2013 school year due to the ratings assigned to the district in the state's financial accountability system will receive separate correspondence from the TEA detailing required next steps. Subchapter EE of Chapter 97 defines the accreditation statuses of Accredited, Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked and states how accreditation statuses are determined and assigned to school districts, including definitions, purpose, and oversight appointments.

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The commissioner's rules related to accreditation may be viewed at the *Texas Administrative Code* link available at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/index.html>, and additional information regarding the assignment of accreditation statuses to districts can be found on the *Accreditation Status* homepage of the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/accredstatus>.

We appreciate the ongoing support of districts during the transition of the accountability systems. If you have questions, please contact the Department of Accreditation and School Improvement at (512) 463-5899 or via e-mail at [accred@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:accred@tea.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

Michael L. Williams  
Commissioner of Education