



Anthony Kirchner
Public Information Officer
817.297.5281
anthony.kirchner@crowley.k12.tx.us

News Release: 2013 State Accountability Ratings

For Immediate Release

(August 8, 2013) – Crowley ISD has achieved the highest academic ratings possible under the state’s new accountability system. Results released by the Texas Education Agency show the district and 19 of its 21 tested campuses have been rated at the new top level of “Met Standard” and achieved 17 titles of academic “Distinction Designation.”

This is the first year that the state is using its new, performance index-based approach to academic accountability. The 2013 ratings apply one of two labels to districts and campuses: “Met Standard” or “Improvement Required” to label performance in four key academic indexes.

As a district, CISD Met Standard on:

- ✓ **Index 1 (Student Achievement) – Met Standard**
- ✓ **Index 2 (Student Progress) – Met Standard**
- ✓ **Index 3 (Closing Performance Gaps) – Met Standard**
- ✓ **Index 4 (Postsecondary Readiness) – Met Standard**

To be rated as Met Standard, the district and each campus must meet all applicable index targets. If any one of the index targets is missed, the rating is “Improvement Required.”

Among CISD’s campuses, 4 out of 4 high schools were rated as Met Standard, 2 out of 3 middle schools were rated as Met Standard, 3 out of 4 intermediate schools were rated as Met Standard, and 10 out of 10 elementary schools were rated as Met Standard. *(See Table 1: District/Campus Overview of 2013 Results)*

Also at the campus level, 8 CISD schools earned a combined 17 titles of academic “Distinction Designation”:

- ✓ **Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts: 3 campuses**
 - ✓ **Academic Achievement in Mathematics: 7 campuses**
 - ✓ **Top 25 Percent Student Progress: 7 campuses**
- (See Table 2: Campus Distinction Designations)*

“These ratings confirm that the students at every campus in CISD are continuing to make significant academic gains each year,” Superintendent Dan Powell said. “I want to thank the hard-working educators across our school district who are dedicated to helping all students in CISD succeed academically. The ratings also show us areas for improvement. We will use this new information to drive educational improvements and academic initiatives in CISD.”

This is the first time for the state to use an index-based approach to academic accountability. Because ratings are based on multiple aspects of performance and not just simple passing rates, the system is much more complex than previous accountability systems.

Table 1: District/Campus Overview of 2013 Results

- The district's rating is Met Standard and the rating for each school is shown below. Results for each index are as follows. Please note that light green shading in the body of the table indicates that the target was **met**.

District/Campus	2013 Rating	Index 1 Score Student Achievement (Target = 50)	Index 2 Score Student Progress (Targets vary*)	Index 3 Score Closing Performance Gaps (Target = 55)	Index 4** Score Postsecondary Readiness (Target = 75)
Crowley ISD	Met Standard	69	31	63	88
High Schools					
CHS	Met Standard	70	26	67	86
NCHS	Met Standard	73	26	66	89
CHS 9 th	Met Standard	71	20	64	100
NCHS 9 th	Met Standard	72	23	69	95
Middle Schools					
H.F. Stevens	Improvement Required	65	33	53	N/A
Crowley Middle	Met Standard	59	32	56	N/A
Summer Creek	Met Standard	70	40	64	N/A
Intermediate Schools					
Sue Crouch	Met Standard	75	43	70	N/A
S.H. Crowley	Met Standard	76	39	71	N/A
David L. Walker	Improvement Required	57	30	51	N/A
Mary Harris	Met Standard	68	40	65	N/A
Elementary Schools					
Bess Race	Met Standard	65	41	56	N/A
Sycamore	Met Standard	76	33	81	N/A
Deer Creek	Met Standard	69	38	70	N/A
Meadowcreek	Met Standard	59	47	58	N/A
Jackie Carden	Met Standard	70	55	68	N/A
Parkway	Met Standard	67	35	68	N/A
Oakmont	Met Standard	73	50	72	N/A
Dallas Park	Met Standard	72	41	62	N/A
J.A. Hargrave	Met Standard	63	36	55	N/A
Sidney H. Poynter	Met Standard	70	39	70	N/A

* Targets in 2013 are as follows: District = 21, high schools = 17, middle = 29, intermediate/elementary = 30.

** Index 4 is applicable only to districts and high schools in 2013.

Table 2: Campus Distinction Designations

- Of the schools rated as having Met Standard, the following schools earned one or more academic distinction designations:

Campus	Academic Achievement Reading/ELA	Academic Achievement Mathematics	Top 25%	Total # Distinctions
CHS			Yes	1
NCHS	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
Sue Crouch Int.	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
S.H. Crowley Int.		Yes		1
Mary Harris Int.	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
Meadowcreek Elem.		Yes	Yes	2
Jackie Carden Elem.		Yes	Yes	2
Oakmont Elem.		Yes	Yes	2

Improvement Required

- As per Table 1, two schools were rated as Improvement Required: David L. Walker Intermediate School and H.F. Stevens Middle School.
- CISD's two Improvement Required schools missed only one of the applicable targets, which was the Closing Performance Gaps index. David L. Walker Intermediate missed the target by four points. H.F. Stevens Middle missed the target by two points.
- The district met 89% of the applicable system safeguard standards. Any system safeguard standards that were missed will be addressed during the improvement planning process. Thirteen campuses missed one or more system safeguard standards and similarly will have to address those needs during the improvement planning process.

BACKGROUND: FEATURES OF THE NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

- This is the first time for the state to use an index-based approach to academic accountability. Full details about how the system worked were being provided to districts as little as two weeks ago, and educators are still learning about all the implications and consequences of the new results. Because ratings are based on multiple aspects of performance and not just simple passing rates, the system is by definition much more complex than what many are used to seeing.
- The four index targets address the extent to which:
 - 1) scores on all tests in the accountability subset are at or above Level II: Satisfactory (keeping in mind that some students may contribute multiple test scores to the indexes and, for this year only, both TAKS and STAAR scores can be included)
 - 2) performance on each of the tests in the accountability subset meets or exceeds progress expectations across up to 10 student groups, with extra weight given to the scores that exceed progress expectations
 - 3) scores for economically disadvantaged students and up to the 2 lowest performing groups in 2012 were at or above Level II: Satisfactory in 2013
 - 4) students in up to 10 groups graduated on time and students in 8 racial/ethnic groups graduated on the Recommended and Distinguished/Advanced plans
- Among the features of the new system that have potential impact on results are these: minimum size criteria are more stringent (typically as soon as 25 test scores are represented in a group); scores of economically disadvantaged students are always evaluated on Index 3, even if there is only one such score; and, the targets for Index 2 derive from ranking the results for all high schools, middle/junior high schools, elementary schools and districts. Unlike the old system, there is no allowance for exceptions to standards and there is no mechanism for demonstrating improvement at the index level.
- Only campuses that are rated as "Met Standard" are eligible to receive Academic Achievement Distinction Designations. A maximum of three such Distinctions are available in 2013 Each of the three distinctions examines performance relative to a TEA-prepared comparison group of 40 demographically similar campuses from across the state:
 - 1) being grouped in the top 25% on Index 2
 - 2) high performance in reading/English language arts
 - 3) high performance in mathematics
- The state has advised school districts that the 2013 ratings system is a "stand alone" year, meaning that the system is substantively different from the old accountability system and that it will be substantively different from what is done in 2014, in part due to statutory changes. However, under current state law, ratings from the old system in 2011 and the 2013 ratings must be considered as "consecutive" for purposes of determining district and campus sanctions, if any.

**Contact: Anthony Kirchner, Crowley ISD Public Information Officer,
817-297-5281 or anthony.kirchner@crowley.k12.tx.us**
