



The Houston Academy for International Studies

An Exemplary Early College High School

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Dear Parent / Guardian:

On April 23, 2013, the Texas Education Agency announced a new state accountability system for Texas school districts, campuses and charters. The new accountability system uses a performance index framework that rates four areas— Student Achievement, Student Progress, Closing Performance Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness:

Index 1: Student Achievement. Represents a snapshot of performance across all subjects, on both general and alternative assessments, at an established performance standard.

Index 2: Student Progress. Provides an opportunity for diverse campuses to show improvements made independent of overall achievement levels.

Index 3: Closing Performance Gaps. Emphasizes advanced academic achievement of the economically disadvantaged student group and the lowest performing race/ethnicity student groups at each campus or district.

Index 4: Postsecondary Readiness. Includes measures of high school completion, and, beginning in 2014, State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) performance at the postsecondary readiness standard. This index emphasizes the importance of students receiving high school diplomas that provide the foundation necessary for success in college, the workforce, job training programs or the military.

The first ratings under this new system have been released. Campuses were awarded a rating of “**Met Standard**” if their score for each index was equal to or greater than the targets set by the state, or “**Improvement Required**” if their score on one or more indices fell below the state targets.

Campuses that received an accountability rating of “Met Standard” were also eligible for the following distinction designations in 2013:

- Top 25% Student Progress
- Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts (ELA)
- Academic Achievement in Mathematics

Campus distinction designations were based on campus performance in relation to a comparison group of campuses. Campuses evaluated under alternative education accountability provisions were not eligible for distinction designations.

Information on how your child’s campus performed on the accountability system is provided on the attached *TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY - 2013 Accountability Summary*. For more information on the 2013 Accountability system please visit the HISD research website at: <http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/90761>.

Sincerely,

Melissa Jacobs Thibaut
Principal