



Gilmer ISD Earns State's Highest Fiscal Accountability Rating

Gilmer Independent School District was awarded an “A” for “Superior Achievement” under School FIRST, the School Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas. The “Superior Achievement” rating is the state’s highest, demonstrating the quality of Gilmer ISD’s financial management and reporting.

Gilmer ISD has achieved the highest rating for each of the 15 years since School FIRST was enacted.

The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts’ financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas’ school finances.

School FIRST was developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999 and amendments under House Bill 5, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013. In 2006, performance under School FIRST was added as a consideration for accreditation, along with academic performance. School FIRST provides additional transparency to public education finance and meaningful financial oversight and improvement for school districts.

Pursuant to Texas Education Code requirements, the commissioner of education has adopted rules to implement and administer School FIRST. These rules are found at 19 Texas Administrative Code section 109.1001. The rules were significantly revised in August 2015 to satisfy the legislative requirement that they include processes for anticipating the future financial solvency of each district.

Under School FIRST, districts report certain financial data to TEA, including the district's annual financial report (AFR); TEA assigns a financial accountability rating to each district; and districts prepare and distribute an annual financial management report for taxpayers and parents, based on the financial data, accountability rating, and specific financial disclosures.

1. Timely filing of the AFR and data feed
2. Unmodified opinion and no material weakness in the AFR
 - A. Unmodified auditor opinion
 - B. No material weakness noted in the AFR
3. Compliance with payment terms of debt agreements
4. Timely payments to government entities
5. Unrestricted net asset balance greater than zero

The Texas Education Agency assigned one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being "A" for "Superior Achievement," followed by "B" for "Above-Standard Achievement," "C" for "Standard Achievement" and "F" for Substandard Achievement."