

Guidelines for Establishment of the High Performance Schools Consortium

The next generation of assessment and accountability systems created by participants in the High Performance Schools Consortium should reflect the following general principles which are inherent to the New Vision for Public Education in Texas¹. The detailed provisions participant districts develop should--

1. Explicitly define the major learning standards for which the school and community are to be responsible and accountable as derived from state standards, college readiness expectations, local community expectations, and Texas' job competitiveness. *(New Vision for Public Education; Article II)*
2. Frame high-priority learning standards as cognitively demanding content and performance standards that respect the multiple talents of all students and define the outcomes for what is expected of all or nearly all students at the transitional ages of 9, 13, and 17, or additional ages at their discretion. *(New Vision for Public Education; Article II)*
3. Leverage the power of digital technologies, data management, and information access in transforming and teaching learning and in determining the design of assessment and accountability systems. *(New Vision for Public Education; Articles I, III, IV, V)*
4. Define a set of indicators of school quality—measures of progress toward meeting the learning standards—and include an evaluation of relevant inputs, processes, and performance outcomes. These indicators should be comprehensive and reflect the full range of what students experience in school, what they learn, how well they are prepared for college/career studies, and for living responsibly in a free society. *(New Vision for Public Education; Articles IV, V)*
5. Incorporate multiple measures with a focus on student performance assessments that inform teachers, capitalize on student motives, encourage greater effort, stimulate confidence in students that they can learn to the levels required to meet the learning standards or some reasonable variation of them. *(New Vision for Public Education; Articles II, III, IV)*
6. Design and use high quality assessments that have meaning and importance to teachers and school leaders, and that utilize their professional capabilities in ways that inspires in them a collective sense of internalized accountability—the highest and most important aspect of effective accountability systems. *(New Vision for Public Education; Article III, IV)*
7. Generate reports that contain sufficient detail to inform students, teachers, parents, and the community about the quality of student learning and progress toward the learning standards and success of graduates. *(New Vision for Public Education; Articles I, II, III, IV)*
8. Reflect any disparities in educational progress in terms of student performance, access to learning, and organizational capacities to ensure equity and excellence for all students. *(New Vision for Public Education; Articles IV, V, VI)*
9. Be characterized by complete transparency, responsive to local context, Texas' job competitiveness, authenticity, and contain public verification processes that

¹ *New Vision for Public Education in Texas*. Public Education Visioning Institute and Texas Association of School Administrators, May 2008.

engender trust and confidence. External Quality Review Teams should be established to conduct audits of district progress using effective sampling techniques. *(New Vision for Public Education; Articles IV, V, VI)*

10. Integrate the use of standardized tests for broad scale indicators of trends as deemed appropriate by schools, districts, or the Quality Review Team. If labels are used for students, schools, or districts, standardized test results should not be the sole student performance indicator. *(New Vision for Public Education; Articles III, IV, VI)*
11. Provide for collaboration among participating districts on all aspects of the system including professional development for teachers and school leaders on effective assessment tools and processes. *(New Vision for Public Education; Articles I-VI)*²

² Refinement of these draft guidelines by the HPSC districts is expected in alignment with the *New Vision for Public Education in Texas*.