

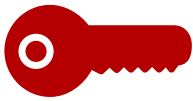
# The Keys to Successful Testing & Accountability Reform



## A Pause in Accountability Consequences

An unproven—and, as of yet, uncreated—testing regime should not be used as the input to drive punitive accountability decisions that dramatically and negatively impact of real students and educators.

Legislators have the responsible to ensure educators and parents can transition to a new system with confidence. The key: ensuring policy makers and stakeholders have adequate time to review any new testing regime prior to implementation—and the ability to address unforeseen issues that arise during implementation before accountability consequences are attached.



## A Prohibition on Local Benchmark Testing

A through-year testing system that turns around test results within days, not weeks or months, eliminates the need for additional local benchmark testing.

Allowing local benchmark testing on top of through-year state testing would fail to deliver on the promise of deemphasizing testing and returning instructional time back to students and educators and should therefore be prohibited, returning instructional time back to students and educators.



## A Framework for Stakeholder Engagement

Educators and parents want a greater role in developing and overseeing the testing and accountability system—and students would benefit from their having a greater role. Additionally, policy makers should take on a more hands-on role in testing and accountability oversight on behalf of constituents.

The Legislature should create a permanent, formal stakeholder TEA advisory committee on testing and accountability. The committee should comprise individual educators, organizations representing educators, parents of public school students, and perhaps students themselves, with an emphasis on classroom educators in tested subjects and parents of students in tested grades. The Legislature should require the commissioner to work with the committee and stakeholders generally in the design and implementation of any testing or accountability revisions that arise from legislative action.

We also encourage the Legislature to require the commissioner to present the next Legislature with a full report on a ready-to-implement test and corresponding accountability provisions no later than Jan. 1, 2027, so it can be reviewed prior to a 2027-28 school year implementation. Alternatively, instead of passing rushed legislation on testing, we recommend simply requiring a legislative commission on testing and accountability to, in coordination with the advisory group recommended above, study the issue and bring forward recommendations for the 90th Legislature.

**What's the rush? Let's slow down and get this right.  
Texas public school students deserve no less.**

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