



Input on HB 3731

Regarding public school accountability ratings and sanctions

March 30, 2021

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** opposes House Bill (HB) 3731 by Chairman Harold Dutton and appreciates this opportunity to provide our input on the bill.

HB 3731 would make several changes to the Texas public school accountability system that would in many cases treat a “D” rating as a failing rating for purposes of interventions, sanctions, and more.

ATPE has opposed the implementation of the “A” through “F” accountability system since its adoption in other states and actively fought the change for Texas public schools in 2015. Since the enactment of the A-F ratings system, which includes strict sanctions and interventions, the Texas Legislature has consistently returned to the drawing board every session to make further changes. This constant change has only increased the instability of the accountability system, which was already relatively ineffective in discriminating between environmental factors and system failures, as well as in delivering and directing resources and interventions to improve campuses and districts. The fact that the state has found it impossible to assign school ratings for the past two years because of COVID-19 further illustrates the shortcomings of the A-F system.

ATPE opposes efforts to continue altering the accountability system in ways that do not improve it. Specifically, ATPE recommends that accountability laws be designed to direct resources to educators to better meet the needs of individual students while giving policymakers and the public a more nuanced and holistic view of a school’s successes and challenges. HB 3731 does not improve the accountability system in ways that help educators meet students’ needs or improve the quality of information being received by policymakers or the public. Instead, it continues to tinker on the edges of a system that is not working.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this input on HB 3731 and look forward to working with the committee on improvements to the accountability system. For additional information, contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or government@atpe.org.