

Grading System Rule Information

- (1) When the State Department of Education was directed by law to develop a grading system according to Act No. 2012-402, the A-F Accountability Task Force was convened beginning November 1, 2012. It was comprised of parents, teachers, school administrators and other stakeholders. It was the intent of the law to have a school grading system design developed by no later than December 31, 2012. Furthermore, the intent of the law was that the system would be in place by no later than the 2013-2014 school year. The A-F Accountability Task Force met five times starting November 1, 2012 through April 2014. At that time a list of recommendations were presented to the Alabama State Board of Education. In addition, A-F Accountability Task Force meetings continued to occur through October 2015. Recommendations relative to identifying indicators, weights, points and phases for the A-F Report Cards were provided from the task force. The task force also indicated that schools serving special populations and feeder schools would not receive individual A-F Report Cards. Another task force recommendation was that scores only would be provided for each indicator with a total school grade given in December 2017. Since January 2016, there have been additional opportunities for feedback, communication and support information for the A-F Report Cards.
- (2) Act No. 2012-402 identifies certain key performance indicators that shall be used to reflect student learning and success. The identified key performance indicators from the law are: student achievement scores, achievement gap, college and career readiness and learning gains. Based on the feedback received from the task force and other stakeholders, it was determined that all of the following indicators would be included in the December 2017 A- F Report Cards:

Schools with a grade 12

- Student Achievement (Phase I)
- Graduation Rate (Phase I)
- Local Indicator (Phase I)
- Learning Gains (Phase II)
- College and Career Readiness (Phase II)
- Alabama Plan 2020 Program Review (Phase II)
- Attendance (Phase II, Bonus)

Schools without a Grade 12

- Student Achievement (Phase I)
- Local Indicator (Phase I)
- Learning Gains (Phase I)
- Achievement Gap (Phase II)
- Alabama Plan 2020 Program Review (Phase II)
- Attendance (Phase II, Bonus)

According to the recommendation of the task force, the scores for each of the Phase I indicators will be publicly reported.

- (3) The Accountability Section of the State Department has developed an Accountability Portal (P2A). This portal enables all districts to see their student level data with appropriate accountability calculations prior to the Report Cards being posted publicly. Districts will have the capacity to view scores for all Phase I indicators in the P2A Portal. In addition, the State Department of Education’s IT department is currently developing a dashboard to report these same Phase I report card scores publicly December 2016. The public site will give stakeholders the opportunity to conduct appropriate score comparisons using a user friendly dashboard. The dashboard will populate with scores from the accountability portal for each Phase I indicator. The A-F Report Cards will display district and school level information for the “all students” group.