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2020–2021 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) ratings based on fiscal year 2020 are now publicly available on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website:

- [School districts](#)
- [Open-enrollment charter schools and charter schools operated by Institutions of Higher Education \(IHE\)](#)

A previous “To the Administrator Addressed” letter dated August 6, 2021, instructed your school district or charter school (local educational agency or LEA) to view its FIRST rating. The letter also provided information about the data the TEA analyzes to produce the rating and described the appeal process available to your LEA. This appeals process is now complete, and the FIRST ratings are final.

Within two months of the release of its final FIRST rating, your LEA must announce and hold a public meeting to distribute a financial management report that explains the LEA’s rating and its performance under each indicator for the current and previous year’s ratings. The report also must provide the financial information described in [19 Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) §109.1001\(q\)\(3\)](#). We encourage your LEA to include in the report additional information that will be beneficial to stakeholders, especially information explaining any special circumstances that may have affected the LEA’s performance under one or more of the indicators.

AtB

Please note that the TEA considers an LEA's FIRST rating when assigning an accreditation status, as required by the accreditation status rules in [19 TAC §97.1055](#).

AtC

If you have questions about your LEA's FIRST rating, please contact financialaccountability@tea.texas.gov.

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