

# THE “WHAT IF” RATINGS

The New Texas Letter Grade Accountability System:  
*Thoughts from David Truitt, Superintendent*



# PRESENTATION GOAL QUESTIONS

- What is the A-F letter grade system?
- How did we do?
- What are the components of the A-F letter grade system?
- Why is the state releasing the ratings now?
- What is my stance?
- How can we reassure our stakeholders that all is well in West ISD?



# WHAT IS A-F?

- House Bill 2804, passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature in 2015
- 16 states, but some waiving the white flag...
- Created five domains of indicators to be used to evaluate districts and campuses regarding three goals:
  1. Preparing students for postsecondary success
  2. Reducing achievement gaps among students from different racial and ethnic groups and socioeconomic backgrounds
  3. Informing parents and the community about district and campus performance
- Parents confused by “old system” (Indices will go away!)
- Final rollout in 2017-2018



# HOW DID WE DO?

District/ Campus	Domain I	Domain II	Domain III	Domain IV	Truitt's Best Guess
West ISD	B	B	C	B	B
West Elementary	C	C	D	A	C
West Middle	C	C	C	A	C
West High	B	C	C	B	C
Brookhaven	AEA – NO RATING				



# WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS?

- I. Student Achievement
- II. Student Progress
- III. Closing Performance Gaps
- IV. Postsecondary Readiness
- V. 2017-2018: Community and Student Engagement

*Distinction Designations, System Safeguards, and PBMAS will stick around!*



# WHY NOW?

- Legislative requirement for informational purposes
  - January 1 release date to legislature
- Transparency
- “What If” – How the model might look in 2018...

*From TEA: But... Morath emphasized that the “what if” report represents “work-in-progress models that are likely to change before A-F ratings become effective in August 2018. No inferences about official district or campus performance in the 2015-16 school year should be drawn from these ratings, and these ratings should not be considered predictors of future district or campus performance ratings.”*



# MY STANCE?

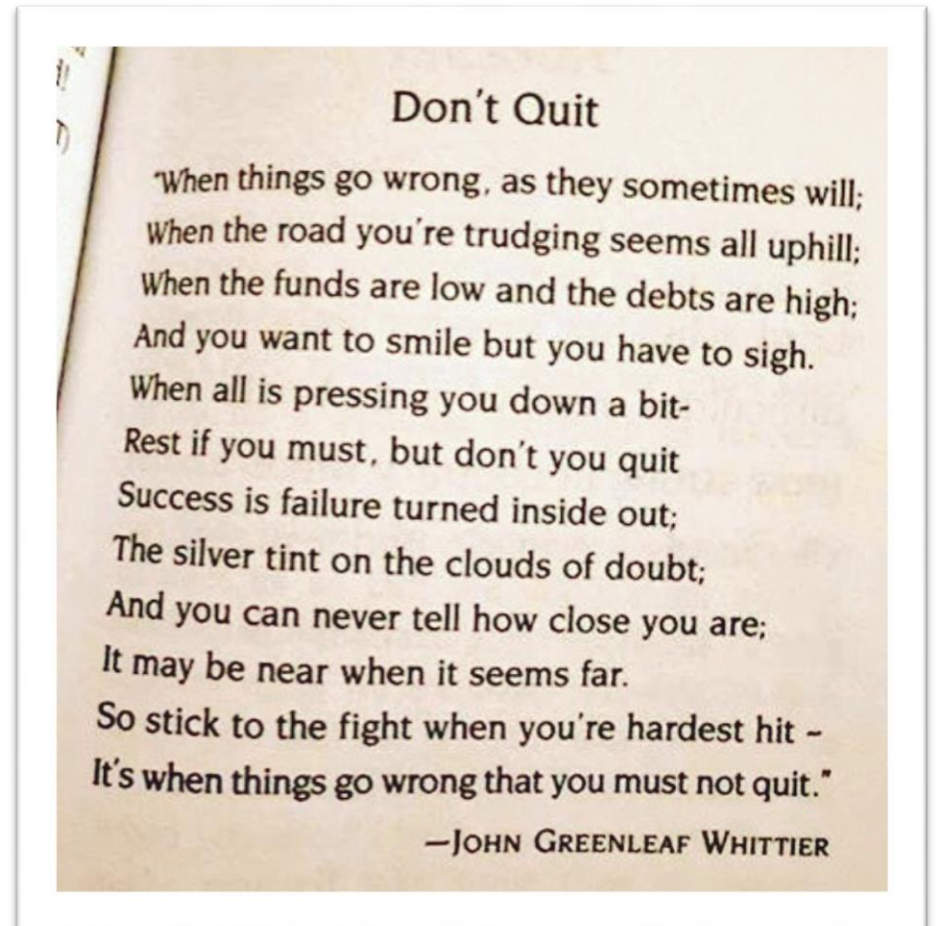
- West ISD and all campuses “Met Standard”; TAPR shows we’re heading in the right direction! So did the Waco Trib article!
- Flawed concept: Doesn’t offer a complete picture of student learning outcomes
  - Not transparent and simple; Gives less information to parents
  - Data is a year behind on postsecondary readiness
  - 55% is based on STAAR
  - Requires pages of complex calculations to create one letter grade
  - 35% is attendance rates at the elementary level AND the data is not for the current year
  - Trends less affluent communities to lower grades
  - Still don’t have answers about potential changes and Domains IV-V
- Does not meet the legislature’s 3 goals (See Slide #3)
- Possible ulterior motives





# WHAT REASSURANCES CAN WE PROVIDE?

- Celebrate, celebrate, celebrate
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Serve, serve, serve
- C = “Met Standard”
- A-F not finalized
- Read Morath’s Press Release!
- Our vision, mission, goals, and graduate profile are what matter...
- Keep working on the work: **We will find the “good” even in the “What If”!**





**REMEMBER WHY WE ARE HERE...**

