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Sen. Rodríguez statement on school-labeling bill

SB 6 would rate schools A-F, but does not provide solutions

AUSTIN - State Sen. José Rodríguez released the following statement on the debate regarding SB 6, which would label schools on an A-F scale:

During the HB 5 negotiations last session, the concern about rating campuses A-F was that it would cause already struggling schools to fail further because parents would withdraw their children, eventually leading to school closures and subsequent negative effects to the local neighborhood. The concession was made for the district-level ratings because a struggling school's problems start with problems at the district level, where resource distribution is decided.

A district's rating is tied to the rating of its campuses and it cannot receive an A rating if any of its campuses are rated D or F (unacceptable). This should be an incentive for districts to invest resources where they are most needed, to help improve performance at struggling districts.

Further, three out of the four performance indexes in which schools are evaluated under our accountability system are based on standardized STARR tests. It's not consistent to rate a school an F based on test scores that are becoming increasingly criticized by parents, legislators, and experts. Based on the above considerations, today I voted no on the bill.

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.