

To: Select Committee on Public School Accountability
From: Mike Motheral, Superintendent of Schools, Sundown ISD
Subject: Impact of Current Accountability System at Sundown ISD

- I. How we use the current accountability system to guide district practices.**
 - A. Curriculum development.**
 - B. Staff development.**
 - C. Personnel decisions.**
 - D. Staffing Patterns.**
 - E. Analysis of scale scores and commended performance.**
 - F. Keeps us focused on attendance, dropout data, completion rates, etc.**

- II. The decisions made or not made based on the accountability system (mainly TAKS)?**
 - A. TAKS standards are not our primary focus, as we have established local standards for students.**
 - B. Impacts teacher and student schedules.**
 - C. Retention decisions.**
 - D. Summer school, remediation, and tutorial schedules.**

- III. The beneficial effects we have seen due to the accountability system.**
 - A. Increased standards for a few students.**
 - B. Increased lines of staff communication and vertical teaming.**
 - C. As with any prominent influence, it has placed an emphasis on the importance of productivity.**
 - D. Has encouraged seeking and using better teaching methods and emphasized importance of diversity of instruction.**
 - E. Has given us a clearer picture of every student and their needs.**
 - F. Has improved instruction by marginal teachers.**
 - G. Has postured us to be ready to move forward.**

- IV. Unintended consequences that have arisen due to the accountability system.**
 - A. Narrowing of the curriculum as CATE and Fine Arts are squeezed out due to emphasis on core courses.**
 - B. Assessment/Accountability system is driving curriculum and programs. Creativity and innovation are essential to prepare youngsters for the 21st Century, and thus should be the guiding force in shaping the curriculum. Our current**