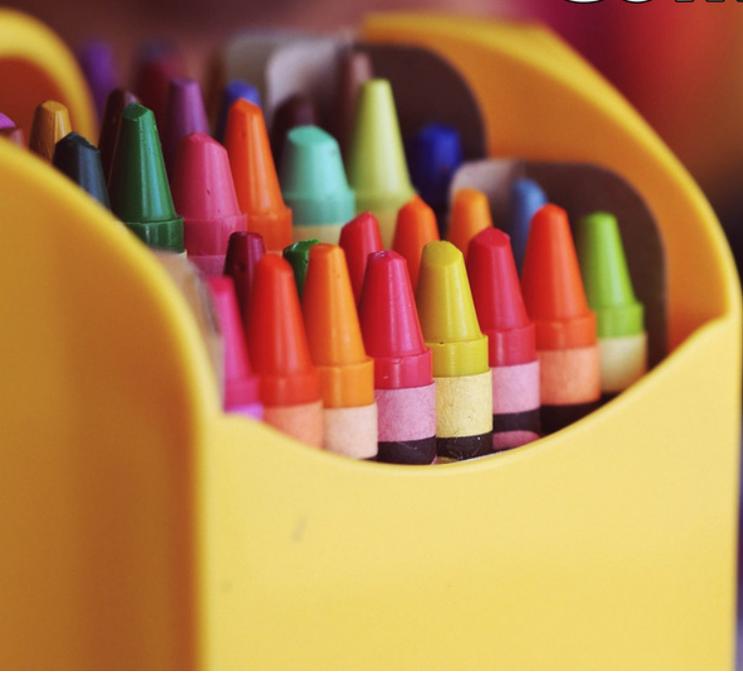




A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Why the A-F Rating System
is Misleading to
Parents and the
Community**



The 84th Texas Legislature passed the A-F ratings because they wanted a system that would be transparent and easy for parents to understand. Most adults who grew up in the public school system know the traditional A-F grading system well and understand what that grading system means or indicates. It looks like this:

Traditional Grading System

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

F= Below 60

Each letter grade and the point range assigned to it is called a “cut-point.” Here are the “cut-points” for the four domains the state uses for their A-F rating system:

Domain I- STAAR Achievement Cut-Points:

A= 60 or above

B= 47-59

C= 39-46

D= 35-38

F= Below 35

Domain II- STAAR Progress Cut-Points:

A= 42 or above

B= 39-41

C= 36-38

D= 33-35

F= Below 33

Domain III- STAAR Gap-to-Target Cut-Points:

A= 7.0 or above

B= 1.4 to 6.9

C= -1.4 to 1.3

D= -7.0 to -1.5

F= Below -7.0

Domain IV- Post-secondary Readiness Cut-Points:

A= 96 or above

B= 91-95

C= 81-90

D= 73-89

F= Below 73

The cut-points in the state’s A-F rating system for each domain do not align with what the general public believes represents an A-F grading system. This misleading and somewhat deceptive system creates confusion for anyone trying to interpret the accountability ratings for any given public school.

The Domain IV cut-points are the closest resemblance to traditional cut-points. In Domain IV, if a district scores a 95 they receive a B rating. If a district scores a 90, they receive a “C” rating. How would a parent react if their child earned a 90 in a class but the teacher assigned them a “C”? I can assure you most parents would be upset and have questions as to why such a low grade was assigned when a much higher grade was earned. The A-F rating system is anything but transparent or easy to understand!



Don Dunn, Superintendent

Van ISD