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ACCREDITATION REQUIRED

Accreditation for TSD shall be determined in accordance with Texas Education Code 29.315 and 19 TAC 97.1011.

INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE

The Texas Education Agency and TSD shall jointly develop and agree upon a set of quality indicators that are appropriate to the characteristics of students served by TSD.

Annually, the Commissioner shall approve indicators of performance that measure the quality of student learning at the School.

The indicators shall include measures of academic and/or developmental performance, as well as other measures appropriate to the characteristics of the student populations served.

To the extent possible, the indicators shall incorporate academic excellence indicators and alternative assessment measures required by State statute under Texas Education Code (TEC), Subchapter B, Chapter 39.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The School's annual performance evaluation shall be based on quality indicators selected annually from among the set of quality indicators developed, and jointly agreed upon, by TSD and TEA to address the characteristics of the student groups served.

The selected quality indicators used for the annual performance evaluation shall measure, as appropriate, academic and/or non-academic performance on norm- or criterion-referenced instruments, progress in the attainment of student individualized education program goals, statewide criterion-referenced assessment, completion of courses of credits, or completion of graduation requirements. Additional non-academic indicators may be selected that measure dropout rates, attendance, or other appropriate measures of student success.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

The method for evaluating TSD's annual performance shall be determined as follows:

- 1. Annually, by September 1, TSD shall submit to the Commissioner an accountability proposal. The proposal shall be developed with input from the School's planning and decision-making committee, and shall include the following information to be used to determine the current year accountability rating:
 - a. quality indicators,
 - b. performance objectives within each indicator, and
 - c. minimum standards for determining achievement of performance objectives.
- 2. By September 15, the Commissioner shall review the proposal and notify the School Superintendent of approval, or needed modifications to obtain approval of the proposed indicators and performance objectives to be used for determining an accountability rating.
- 3. By November 1, the Commissioner shall provide notification of final approval of the proposal indicators and performance objectives.
- 4. By July 1, following the year for which the School's performance is being evaluated, the School shall submit to the Agency all complete and accurate data necessary to document performance with respect to the approved indicators and performance objectives selected for rating purposes under the accountability system.
- 5. TEA shall perform an annual performance evaluation for TSD beginning

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with the 2000-2001 school year.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

By September 1 the Commissioner shall assign the School a rating of "acceptable" or "needing on-site review."

To attain a rating of "acceptable," the School shall attain all approved performance objectives established for each selected indicator.

If the School receives a rating of "needing on-site review," the School may appeal the rating to the Commissioners by October 1. The rating will be final by November 1.

The determination of the performance rating may include consideration of the effectiveness of the special education program based on the Agency's most recent compliance review of the School and program for special populations.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMPLIANCE REVIEWS

The Texas Education Agency shall monitor the School's compliance with federal and state laws and regulations related to services for special populations by conducting a periodic on-site review. TEA shall determine the schedule for the review.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Governing Board of the School shall publish an annual report describing the educational performance of the School.

The report shall include the School's performance objectives, progress toward these objectives, and the School's performance rating assigned by the Agency. Supplemental information to be included in the report shall be determined by the School's Governing Board.

The Governing Board of the School will disseminate the annual performance report to parents of enrolled students' districts that have placed students at the School, and regional education service centers. Additionally, the Governing Board will notify parents of enrolled students' districts which have placed students at the School, and regional education service centers, of an opportunity for public discussion of the annual performance report at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The School's planning and decision-making committee will hold at least one public meeting for the purpose of discussing the School's performance report.

By December 1 the School shall disseminate the annual performance report.

Education Code 29.315, 19 TAC 97.1011

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION

TSD also participates in the Accreditation process of the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) every five years.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

The CEASD Accreditation process includes a comprehensive selfstudy with the following requirements:

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- A review of the internal and external factors impacting the School.
- 2. A profile of the School's history, students, staff and other relevant demographics.
- 3. Collecting, mining, and analyzing data derived from student performance data and community, parent, staff and student surveys.
- Evidence that the School has achieved the 12 Standards for CEASD accreditation:
 - a. Mission, Vision and Beliefs
 - b. Governance and Leadership
 - c. School Improvement Planning and Viability
 - d. Finance
 - e. Facilities
 - f. School Climate and Organization
 - g. Health and Safety
 - h. Educational Program
 - i. Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning
 - j. Student Services
 - k. Student Life, Student Activities and Residential Living
 - I. Learning Resources and Technology
- 5. A review of the evidence collected to support the achievement of the 12 Standards.
- 6. The development of a School Improvement Plan that focuses on improving student achievement.
- 7. A three and one-half day site visit by an outside group of evaluators to determine the validity of the self-study.
- 8. A recommendation for accreditation with the final determination made by the CEASD Board of Directors at their annual conference.

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