

# Summary of NCEA Reports for Dallas ISD

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## Data Findings

- **The current focus on higher academic standards (college and skilled career readiness) is the key to the district's future success.** The focus on higher standards must pervade every classroom in the district if Dallas ISD is to become the premier urban district in the United States.
  - **The data show evidence that the district has primarily focused on minimum standards in the past.** The bulge in the percent of students who are close to the TAKS passing standard in Dallas ISD may be evidence that past teaching practices have focused on getting students only to minimum standards.
  - **It is critical to get students on the college readiness "ramp" in elementary school.** With early intervention, this should be accomplished by the early elementary grades.
  - **Dallas generally ranks in the top half of the Urban Six with low-income and minority students.** The district's higher percentage of students in the most disadvantaged groups lowers the district's rank with all students combined.
  - **Absolute performance levels on college readiness standards are low in all of the Urban Six districts.** Ranking near the top is less meaningful when everyone's performance is low.
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## Audit Findings

- **Overall, Dallas ISD made tremendous progress in only 10 months.** By any account, the vigor with which central administration attacked the NCEA recommendations is impressive. Over the past 10 months, the district opted to take many substantive steps toward fundamentally different expectations and operations throughout the system. Dallas ISD is commended for its work to date.
- **Reviewers and interviewees noted a positive shift in the district culture.** Throughout the system, Dallas ISD educators described "passing TAKS" as simply a floor performance goal and reported greater focus on increasing rigor in the curriculum to help more students reach higher standards (college and skilled career readiness) on the TAKS.
- **Significant work, requiring time and patience, remains ahead.** Deep and consistent implementation of the many initiatives introduced in the past year will be necessary to realize meaningful improvement in student achievement. The ultimate measure of the district's response to the NCEA recommendations will be increases in student learning in future years.