Summary of September 2023 ESSA Appendix A Amendment Comments
Summary of Comments Received and Agency Responses

Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG) September 19, 2023 Meeting Notes:

TEA asked: Keep the methodology used for determining Academic Growth domain (2a) cut points as it is published in the preliminary manual (the average of 2022 and 2019) or only using 2019 data for the baseline?

Summary of TAAG responses:

In 2022 data appears unusual. Especially at the EL and Middle schools.

Using only 2019 does make sense.

The distribution of scores does make sense looking at prior years.

TEA Response: *We agree the 2022 data is more anomalous than expected and will use only 2019 baseline data for setting cut scores.*

TEA asked: Using 2019 as the baseline data for student group targets will generally result in a lower target, but in some cases, middle school and high school targets increase for Math. Should we use the lower of 2019 and 2022? Or should we use an average?

Summary of TAAG responses:

If you use 2019, use it across the board.

Conclusions and consensus that we should be using 2019 as the baseline for targets, and Domain 3 Cut Points. Stick to 2019 despite some targets will be slightly higher.

TEA Response: *We agree with staying consistent across Domain 2a cut points, Domain 3 student group targets, and Domain 3 cut points, and will use only the 2019 baseline data.*

Additional Comments received (via email and survey)

One stakeholder from a district contacted the agency to request the 2019 baseline for groups where it results in a lower target than the average of 2019 and 2022, with a second choice to use only the 2019 Baseline as 2022 is an outlier year. lead4ward also requested the agency use whichever targets are lower: the 2019 targets or the average of the 2019 and 2022 targets. Two additional district-based staff members also shared feedback via survey; one highlighted COVID recovery and the need to set growth expectations that are reasonable and achievable, and the other staff member requested the agency use the lower targets, across the board for all content areas.

TEA Response: *We agree with the advisory group feedback to stay consistent across Domain 2a cut points, Domain 3 student group targets, and Domain 3 cut points, and will use only the 2019 baseline data, even if for some groups the student group targets will slightly increase for MS and HS math. The Domain 3 cut points are set using 2019 baseline data and use the 2019 student group targets, and will result in **improved** ratings distributions. Campuses will have a better chance of doing well than under the proposed manual cuts because the agency is not using the 2022 anomaly.*