

Tioga Independent School District

Josh Ballinger, Superintendent
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October 9, 2025

Subject: Assignment of 2023-24 Accreditation Status to the Tioga ISD

Tioga ISD Community,

The issuance of 2022-23 academic accountability ratings were pending and subject to judicial ruling due to litigation. Therefore, 2023-2024 accreditation statuses were delayed due to the pending accountability ratings. The Fifteenth Court of Appeals ruled that TEA could release 2023 accountability ratings in April 2025, and the ratings for 2023 were finalized on August 19, 2025. On September 25, 2025, the TEA assigned accreditation statuses to districts for the 2023-24 year under the authority of TEC §39.051 and §39.052. The 2023-24 accreditation status for Tioga ISD was released with all other districts.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the 2023-2024 accreditation status of the Tioga ISD is Accredited-Probation. Under state law, the accreditation statuses that may be assigned to districts include Accredited, Accredited-Warning, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked. A status of Accredited-Probation means that a district exhibits deficiencies in performance that, if not addressed, will lead to revocation of the district's accreditation status.

The Tioga ISD has been assigned an Accredited-Probation status due to the ratings assigned to the district in the state's financial accountability rating system (FIRST). Specifically, the Tioga ISD was assigned a 2021 (Fiscal Year 20), 2022 (Fiscal Year 21) and 2023 (Fiscal Year 22) financial accountability rating of F-Substandard Achievement on FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). The academic accountability ratings have remained consistent with B Ratings.

The district is taking the following steps to address the areas of identified deficiency. Fiscal Year (FY) 24 ended with a governmental funds report combined ending fund balances of negative \$211,655, an improvement of \$982,742 over the prior Fiscal Year 23 that ended as negative \$1,194,397. The net position from FY23 to FY24 improved over \$500,000 in one year. The total net position increased \$828,000 from FY23 to FY24, primarily a result of decreased spending. The Reduction In Force in December of 2022 and the continued attrition of staff through the spring and summer of 2023 resulted in \$1.4 million dollars in savings, and that savings has been maintained over the last two school years. Tax anticipation notes (loans) have not had to be utilized in over two years in order to stay financially solvent each August. Summer 2024 began the transition of \$26 million of M&O obligated debt to I&S debt by refinancing \$8 million and freeing-up operational funds.

Under law, if the current accreditation concerns for the district are not addressed, the district may be assigned an accreditation status of Not Accredited-Revoked. A Not Accredited-Revoked status means that the TEA no longer recognizes the district as a Texas public school. Districts with an accreditation status below Accredited also may be subject to additional accreditation sanctions as referenced in statute/rule. For more information regarding the assignment of accreditation statuses to school districts, you may access the TEA website at <http://www.tea.texas.gov/accredstatus/>. This website will provide you with background information as well as links to the Texas Education Code and current commissioner's rules related to accreditation. If you have additional questions regarding the assignment of an Accredited-Probation status to the Tioga ISD, or if you would like additional information about the district's ongoing financial improvement efforts, please contact Josh Ballinger at 940-202-2536/ josh.ballinger@tiogaids.net. Thank you for your continued trust in getting our students educated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Ballinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Ballinger, Superintendent