

children
at Risk

Texas Public School
Rankings Methodology

CHILDREN AT RISK aims to help parents, educators, and community members understand how their schools are performing and spark dialogue on the quality of public education across Texas.

To meet this goal, **CHILDREN AT RISK** has ranked Texas public schools for the past 13 years based on school performance, student growth, college readiness, and more.

CHILDREN AT RISK ranks all elementary and middle schools across 3 main areas and all high schools across 4 main areas.



ELEMENTARY + MIDDLE SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOLS

**STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT**



**ACHIEVEMENT
+ POVERTY**



**STUDENT
GROWTH**



**COLLEGE
READINESS**



How CHILDREN AT RISK grades schools:



Elem & Middle = 33%
High = 25%

I

Student Achievement

How students do on state standardized tests (STAAR)

Elem & Middle = 33%
High = 25%

II

Achievement + Poverty

How a school compares in test scores to schools with similar levels of poverty

Elem & Middle = 33%
High = 25%

III

Student Growth

How students improve on their STAAR tests in a school year

Elem & Middle = 0%
High = 25%

IV

College Readiness

How many high school students are graduating on time and participating in other college readiness activities

I- Student Achievement:

TEA uses STAAR exam results to understand how many students at each school are meeting certain benchmarks.



Does not meet

Students are **unlikely to succeed** in the next grade without significant academic intervention / **do not demonstrate basic understanding** of knowledge and skills

Approaches

Students are **likely to succeed** in the next grade with targeted academic intervention / **generally demonstrate** ability to apply knowledge and skills in familiar situations

Meets

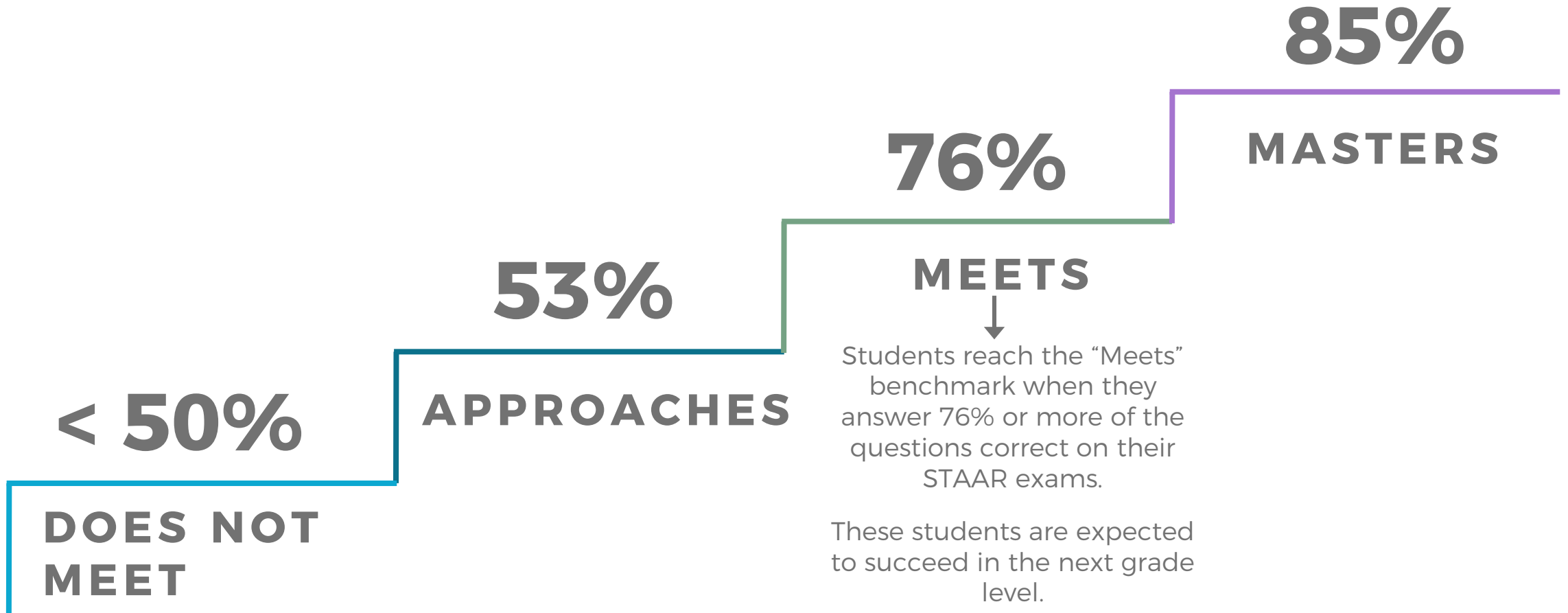
Students have **high likelihood of success** in the next grade but may still some intervention / **have ability to think critically** and apply skills / **“sufficiently prepared”** for success after high school

Masters

Students **expected to succeed** in the next grade with no intervention / **have ability to think critically** and apply skills in **unfamiliar situations** / **“well prepared”** for success after high school

I- Student Achievement:

Student performance on STAAR exams

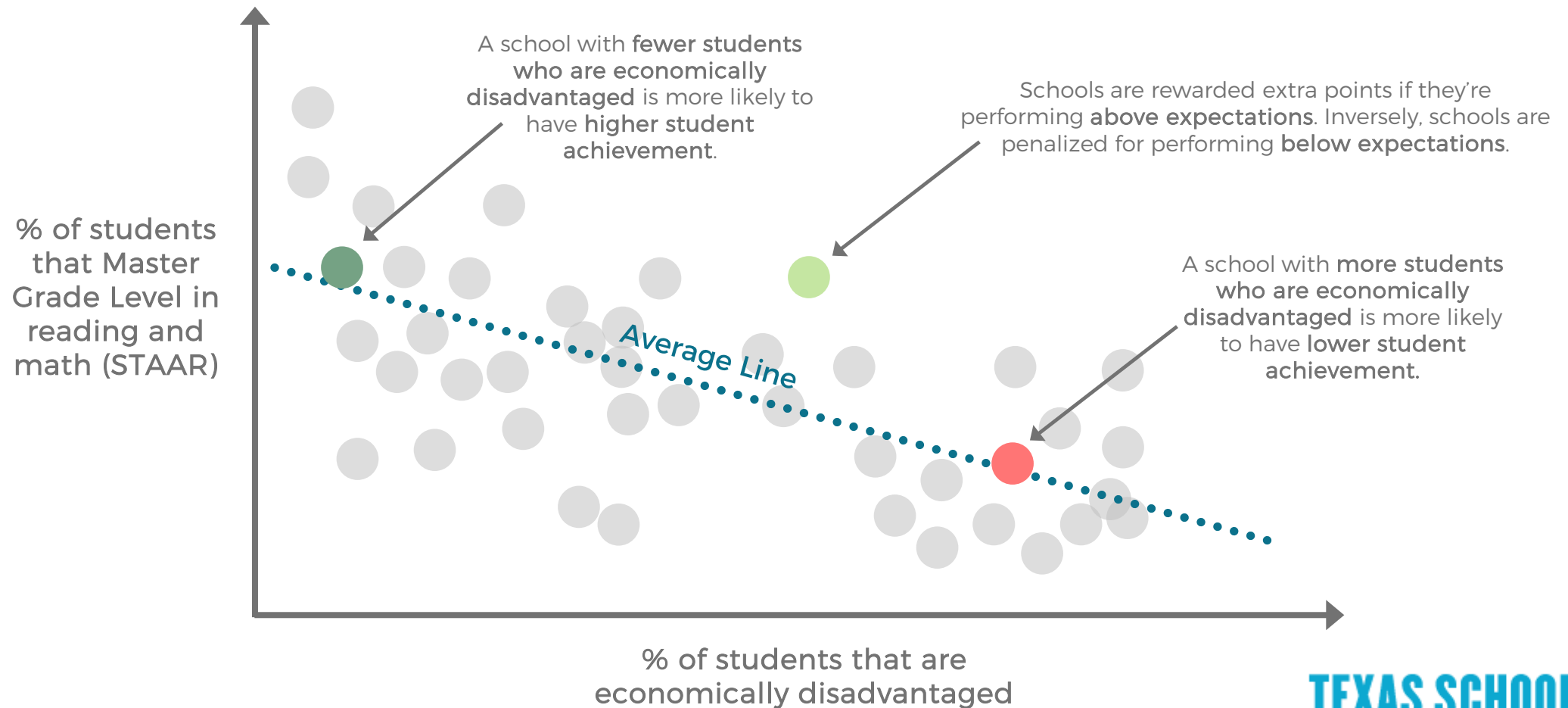


II- Campus Performance:

Compares schools with similar levels of poverty

Students in **poverty** are more likely to face challenges in completing their education compared to their wealthier peers.

Schools that successfully serve students in poverty and address these challenges deserve special recognition.

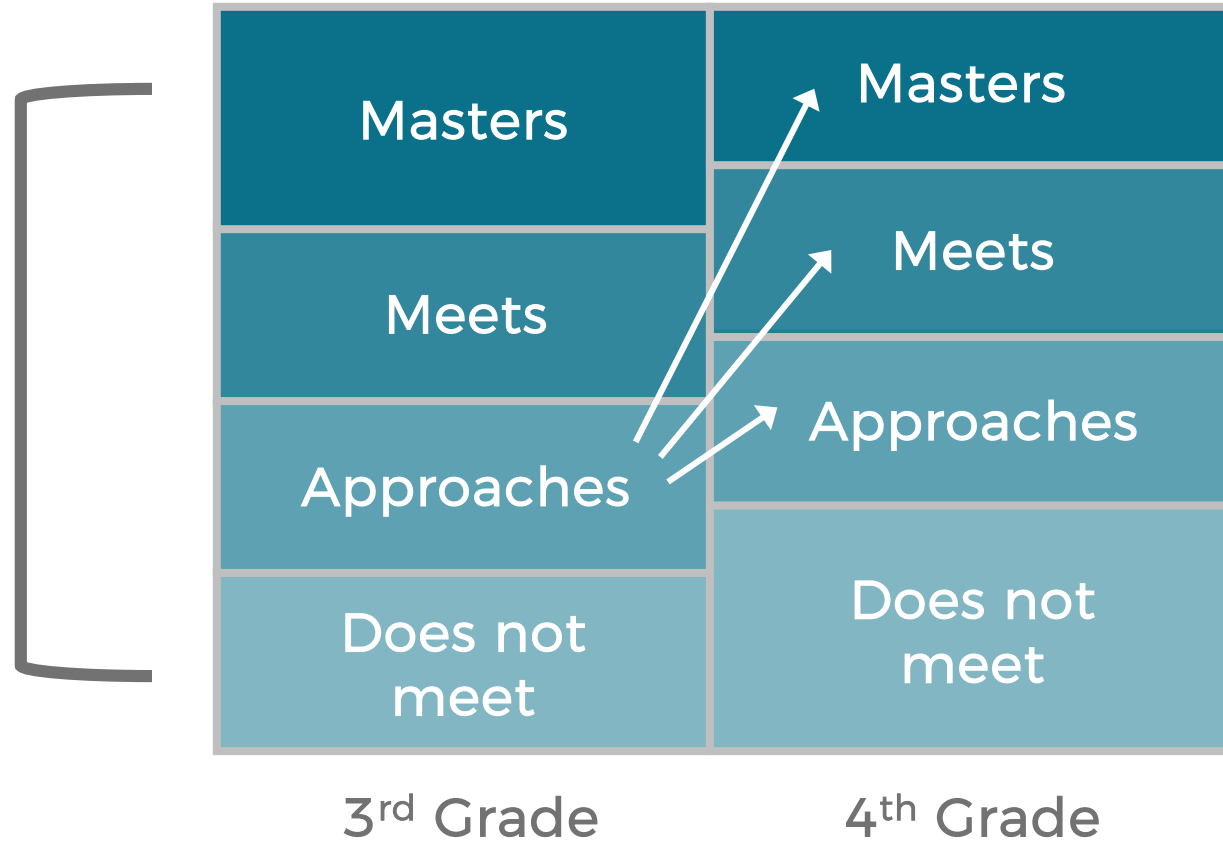


III- Student Growth:

How much students improve on STAAR exams over one school year

Student Growth looks at how students are improving over time on their STAAR exams.

C@R measures Student Growth based on how much a school's students improve year to year on their exams.



IV- College Readiness:

Evaluates how well schools are preparing their students for college

C@R thinks every student should have the opportunity to be successful in college or a career of choice.

To account for this, high schools are also evaluated on how they prepare students for college.

COLLEGE READINESS SCORE

60% C@R Graduation Rate – the best of the 4, 5, or 6 year graduation rates at a school

10% How many students take the SAT/ACT

10% How many students take AP/IB exams

10% % of test takers at a school that pass the AP/IB exams

5% Average SAT total score

5% Average ACT composite score

How CHILDREN AT RISK assigns final letter grades to schools:

I

**STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT**



II

**ACHIEVEMENT
+ POVERTY**



III

**STUDENT
GROWTH**



IV

**COLLEGE
READINESS**



C@R School Grade

Questions or comments?

Please email SchoolRankings@childrenatrisk.org

To see the **full version** of this methodology,
[click here.](#)

To see analyses from the **2018 School Rankings**,
[click here.](#)