

In 1993, the 73rd Legislative Session passed Senate Bill 7, overhauling the Texas school finance system around the principles of equalized per student expenditures and mandating the creation of the nation's first comprehensive accountability system.

As part of Senate Bill 7, goals for the public education system were established that would be monitored by the new accountability system. These goals included:

- 1) *Closing the achievement gap*
- 2) *Raising student performance in Texas compared to national and international communities*
- 3) *Delivering a well-balanced and standardized curriculum to all students*
- 4) *Attracting and retaining qualified and effective personnel*
- 5) *Improving instruction and administration across all schools*

To monitor these goals, the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) program was expanded in the 1993–1994 school year to assess all students in grades 3–8 and 10 in reading and mathematics, and all students in grades 4, 8, and 10 in writing. Assessments in science and social studies were added in subsequent years according to statute. In 2001, the Texas model of accountability and a

