

AEA provisions apply to and are appropriate for

- campuses that offer nontraditional programs, rather than programs within a traditional campus;
- campuses that meet the at-risk enrollment criterion;
- campuses that meet the grades 6–12 enrollment criterion;
- open-enrollment charter schools that operate only AECs; and
- open-enrollment charter schools that meet the AEC enrollment criterion.

AEA Campus Identification

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AECs, including charter school AECs, must serve students at risk of dropping out of school as defined in TEC §29.081(d) and provide accelerated instructional services to these students. The

AEA Campus Registration Criteria

Campuses must meet thirteen criteria to register for AEA. However, the requirements in criteria 8–13 may not apply to charter school campuses (depending on the terms of the charter) or for community-based dropout recovery campuses established in accordance with TEC §29.081(e).

- 1) The AEC must have its own county-district-campus number for which TSDS PEIMS data are submitted and test answer documents are coded. A program operated within or supported by another campus does not qualify.
- 2) The AEC must have its own county-district-campus number on TSDS PEIMS October snapshot day (October 29, 2021).
- 3) The AEC must be identified in AskTED (Ask Texas Education Directory database) as an alternative instructional campus. This is a self-designation that districts and charter schools request via AskTED.
- 4) The AEC must be dedicated to serving students at risk of dropping out of school as defined in TEC §29.081(d). Each AEC must have at least 75 percent at-risk student enrollment at the AEC verified through current-year TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment data.
- 5) At least 90 percent of students at the AEC must be enrolled in grades 6–12 verified through current-year TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment data.
- 6) The AEC must operate on its own campus budget.
- 7) The AEC must offer nontraditional settings and methods of instructional delivery designed to meet the needs of the students served on the AEC.
- 8) The AEC cannot be the only middle school or high school listed for its district in AskTED.
- 9) The AEC must have an appropriately certified, full-time administrator whose primary duty is the administration of the AEC.
- 10) The AEC must have appropriately certified teachers assigned in all areas including special education, bilingual education, and/or English as a second language (ESL) to serve students eligible for such services.
- 11) The AEC must provide each student the opportunity to attend a 75,600-minute school year as defined in TEC §25.081(a), according to the needs of each student.
- 12) If the campus has students served by special education, the students must be placed at the AEC by their Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee. If the campus is a residential facility, the students must have been placed in the facility by the district.
- 13) Students served by special education must receive all services outlined in their current individualized education programs (IEPs). Emergent bilingual students/English learners (EL) must receive all services outlined by the language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC). Students served by special education or language programs must be served by appropriately certified teachers.

At-Risk Enrollment Criterion

Each registered AEC must have at least 75 percent at-risk student enrollment on the AEC as verified through current-year TSDS PEIMS fall enrollment data in order to be evaluated by AEA provisions. TEC §29.081 defines fourteen criteria used to identify students as “at-risk of dropping out of school”. Districts and charter schools must identify students in TSDS PEIMS who meet one or more of the

fourteen criteria. The at-risk enrollment criterion restricts use of AEA provisions to AECs that serve large populations of at-risk students and enhances at-risk data quality.

Prior Year Safeguard. If a registered AEC does not meet the at-risk enrollment criterion in the current year, it remains registered for AEA if the AEC meets the at-risk enrollment criterion in the prior year. For example, an AEC with an at-risk enrollment below 75 percent in 2022 that had at least 75 percent in