

Texas Education Agency

Performance-Based Monitoring

2020 RDA Masking Rules

“Masking” refers to the use of special symbols to conceal data for the purpose of protecting student confidentiality. The Results Driven Accountability (RDA) masks data in order to comply with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Data is masked by concealing information that could lead to the identification, either directly or indirectly, of a student. There are two cases in which a student could be identified:

1. When very few students in a group are evaluated, it may be possible to identify a particular student or students within the group.
2. When all the students in a group have the same result, e.g. all passing or all failing, it may be possible to identify all the students within the group. Revealing that all (or no) students in a group achieved the same result violates the students’ individual privacy, even if the result achieved is a positive one.

RDA masks numerators, denominators, and percentages (rates) according to the procedure below. State standards and performance levels **are not** masked. The asterisk (*) is used as the masking character.

Procedure

The following are lists of 100% (except risk ratios printed on district reports): each year for years 1-2) If
Rate: print an asterisk (*)

Numerator: print an asterisk (*)

Denominator: print an asterisk (*)

- 3) If the rate is 0% or rounds to 0% (except risk ratios printed on district reports):

Rate: print an asterisk (*)

Numerator: print an asterisk (*)

Denominator: print an asterisk (*)

- 4) If the difference between the numerator and the denominator is less than 3:
Rate: print the rate
Numerator: print an asterisk (*)
Denominator: print an asterisk (*)

- 5) If the numerator is less than 5 (including 0):
Rate: print the rate
Numerator: print an asterisk (*)
Denominator: print an asterisk (*)

Step 2: Additional Masking

The following rules are used for certain special education RDA indicators to prevent the ability to calculate numerators, denominators, or rates of related indicators that were masked by previous rules.

- 6) If the overall **SPED representation** numerator and denominator are masked:
Print an asterisk (*) for the numerators and denominators of: (a) any reported representation student group indicators, and (b) (o)-2 (rs)2 (,)1 (an)1 7d[s (f)1 1 (ke)402 8Ls302 Tw 3
