

The State Board of Education (SBOE) adopts an amendment to §74.14, concerning performance acknowledgments. The amendment is adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the February 27, 2026 issue of the *Texas Register* (51 TexReg 1241) and will not be republished. The adopted amendment updates the minimum score required for a performance acknowledgement on the SAT, aligns language related to ACT with language related to SAT, and adds the Classic Learning Test® and Preliminary SAT (PSAT) 10 to appropriate performance acknowledgments.

**REASONED JUSTIFICATION:** The SBOE adopted rules in 19 TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter B, to implement the Foundation High School Program effective July 8, 2014. In April 2018, the SBOE adopted an amendment to update the number of subject tests on the ACT Aspire™ examination that are required to earn a performance acknowledgement and to update the qualifying score on the SAT exam to a single composite score of 1350. The committee was recently made aware that the amended language that was adopted in 2018 for SAT and ACT is inconsistent.

At the January 2026 meeting, the College Board presented public testimony to the Committee on Instruction with information from concordance tables developed and approved by the College Board and ACT. The ACT-SAT concordance tables indicate that an SAT score of 1340 should be used as the equivalent to an ACT score of 29 when a single SAT score is needed. It was also brought to the committee's attention that the PSAT™ 10 has more flexible testing windows but is otherwise the same exam as the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)®.

The adoption corrects the inconsistency in references to SAT and ACT, updates the minimum score required for a performance acknowledgement on the SAT from 1350 to 1340, and adds the Classic Learning Test® and PSAT 10 to appropriate performance acknowledgments.

The SBOE approved the amendment for first reading and filing authorization at its January 30, 2026 meeting and for second reading and final adoption at its April 10, 2026 meeting contingent upon approval by the Committee on Instruction within 60 days. The Committee on Instruction held a special-called meeting on April 21, 2026, and approved the amendment.

In accordance with Texas Education Code, §7.102(f), the SBOE approved the amendment for adoption by a vote of two-thirds of its members to specify an effective date earlier than the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year. The earlier effective date will allow districts of innovation that begin school prior to the statutorily required start date to implement the proposed rulemaking when they begin their school year. The effective date is August 1, 2026.

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES:** The public comment period on the proposal began February 27, 2026, and ended at 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2026. The SBOE also provided an opportunity for registered oral and written comments at its April 2026 meeting in accordance with the SBOE board operating policies and procedures. Following is a summary of public comments received and corresponding responses.

**Comment.** One counselor and one out-of-state individual expressed support for adding PSAT 10 as an eligible assessment for a performance acknowledgment.

**Response.** The SBOE agrees and took action to approve the amendment to add PSAT 10 to the eligible assessments for a performance acknowledgment as proposed.

**Comment.** One out-of-state individual expressed support for updating the qualifying SAT score from 1350 to 1340 to ensure fairness and consistency across assessments in alignment with the ACT-SAT concordance tables.

**Response.** The SBOE agrees and took action to approve the amendment to update the qualifying SAT score to 1340 as proposed.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY.** The amendment is adopted under Texas Education Code (TEC), §7.102(c)(4), which requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) to establish curriculum and graduation requirements; and TEC, §28.025(c-5), which requires the SBOE to adopt rules permitting a student to earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for outstanding performance in a dual credit course; in bilingualism and biliteracy; on a

college advanced placement test or international baccalaureate examination; on an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced preliminary college preparation assessment instrument used to measure a student's progress toward readiness for college and the workplace; on an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced assessment instrument used by colleges and universities as part of their undergraduate admissions process; or for earning a state recognized or nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The amendment implements Texas Education Code, §7.102(c)(4) and §28.025(c-5).

<rule>

#### **§74.14. Performance Acknowledgments.**

- (a) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for outstanding performance in a dual credit course by successfully completing:
  - (1) at least 12 hours of college academic courses, including those taken for dual credit as part of the Texas core curriculum, and advanced technical credit courses, including locally articulated courses, with a grade of the equivalent of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0; or
  - (2) an associate degree while in high school.
- (b) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy as follows.
  - (1) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment by demonstrating proficiency in accordance with local school district grading policy in two or more languages by:
    - (A) completing all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; and
    - (B) satisfying one of the following:
      - (i) completion of a minimum of three credits in the same language in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or
      - (ii) demonstrated proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or
      - (iii) completion of at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of 80 on a scale of 100; or
      - (iv) demonstrated proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods:
        - (I) a score of 3 or higher on a College Board Advanced Placement examination for a language other than English; or
        - (II) a score of 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate examination for a higher-level languages other than English course; or
        - (III) performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent.
  - (2) In addition to meeting the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection, to earn a performance acknowledgment in bilingualism and biliteracy, an emergent bilingual student must also have:

- (A) participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program; and
  - (B) scored at the Advanced High level on the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).
- (c) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for outstanding performance on a College Board Advanced Placement test or International Baccalaureate examination by earning:
  - (1) a score of 3 or above on a College Board Advanced Placement examination; or
  - (2) a score of 4 or above on an International Baccalaureate examination.
- (d) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for outstanding performance on an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced preliminary college preparation assessment instrument used to measure a student's progress toward readiness for college and the workplace or on an established valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced assessment instrument used by colleges and universities as part of their undergraduate admissions process by:
  - (1) earning a score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) or PSAT 10 that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation or as an awardee of the National Recognition Programs of the College Board;
  - (2) earning a composite score of at least 442 on the ACT Aspire™ examination;
  - (3) earning a composite score of at least 29 on the ACT PreACT® examination;
  - (4) earning a total score of at least 101 on the Classic Learning Test® (CLT) 10;
  - (5) earning a total score of at least 1340 on the SAT®;
  - (6) earning a composite score of at least 29 on the ACT® examination (excluding the writing subscore); or
  - (7) earning a total score of at least 96 on the CLT.
- (e) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for earning a state-recognized or nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license as follows.
  - (1) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment with:
    - (A) performance on an examination or series of examinations sufficient to obtain a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification; or
    - (B) performance on an examination sufficient to obtain a government-required credential to practice a profession.
  - (2) Nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification shall be defined as an industry-validated credential that complies with knowledge and skills standards promulgated by a nationally or internationally recognized business, industry, professional, or government entity representing a particular profession or occupation that is issued by or endorsed by:
    - (A) a national or international business, industry, or professional organization;
    - (B) a state agency or other government entity; or
    - (C) a state-based industry association.
  - (3) Certifications or licensures for performance acknowledgements shall:
    - (A) be age appropriate for high school students;
    - (B) represent a student's substantial course of study and/or end-of-program knowledge and skills;

- (C) include an industry-recognized examination or series of examinations, an industry-validated skill test, or demonstrated proficiency through documented, supervised field experience; and
- (D) represent substantial knowledge and multiple skills needed for successful entry into a high-skill occupation.