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College Preparation Assessment Guidance: Section Topics

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Texas College Bridge

College Preparation Course for Seniors

Districts across Texas are invited to join the Texas College Bridge Program to access free, online college preparatory courses for their seniors who have not yet demonstrated college readiness in ELAR and/or math on the ACT, SAT or TSIA.

Using a pre-assessment, each English and math course is designed to meet the individual learning needs of a student. The courses are completed at a student's pace with a teacher to provide support. Multiple opportunities to begin a course during the school year makes the Texas College Bridge a great option in the COVID-19 environment. Visit the Texas College Bridge [website](#) to learn more.

SAT/ACT

National Testing

The College Board plans to provide weekend SAT administrations every month through the end of the calendar year beginning in August. This includes a **new** administration on September 26 and the previously scheduled tests on August 29, October 3, November 7, and December 5. [Registration opened in May](#) for all students. The College Board is facing limited seating capacity and is calling on member schools and colleges, as well as local communities, to open their doors and provide additional test center capacity so every student has the opportunity to take the SAT.

ACT, Inc. has added several new administrations in fall 2020 including administrations on September 12, 13, and 19, October 10, 17, 24 and 25, and December 12. [Registration opened](#) at the end of July. ACT has also revised their fee waiver policy to allow for **four fee waivers** and **unlimited free score reports** for qualifying students. Lastly, ACT will launch [online testing](#) in fall 2020 for designated testing centers, in which students can receive test results in as little as two business days.

School Day/District Testing

The College Board added a new school day administration on September 23, in addition to the administrations on October 14, March 3 and 24, April 13 and 27. Additionally, the College Board is offering flexible testing to its districts for SAT school day and PSAT/NMSQT. This new policy permits districts and campuses to split their students across the September and October test dates for the SAT school day and across both October dates for the PSAT/NMSQT. Lastly, to expand testing capacity available to students, districts and campuses will be able to test at any offsite location without submitting a plan for administration.

ACT's fall October school day administration is on October 6 with October 20 as a makeup date. The registration deadline is August 28.

Remote Testing

The College Board **will not** offer an at-home SAT administration at this time and has not released future plans to do so.

ACT **will** offer at-home ACT administrations for late fall/winter 2020 as part of its national testing program

Resources

TEA encourages students, parents, and educators to use each vendor's **FREE** K-12 resource, [Khan Academy](#) & [ACT Academy](#), to support remote learning, preparation, and instruction at this time. Additionally, ACT is providing free digital learning and workforce resources to assist students, teachers, schools, and workers impacted by COVID-19. Additional details can be found on their [COVID-19 website](#). The most current information regarding SAT administrations can be found on their [SAT Coronavirus Updates website](#).

Texas Success Initiative Assessment

Remote Testing

For all TSIA 1.0 testing, [Examity](#) has been approved as online testing services. Online testing services may have a proctor fee associated with testing. Check with the testing services for proctor fees.

Additionally, test centers are approved to use video chat services (Zoom, WebEx, GoToMeeting, MS Teams etc.) for TSIA test administration for ISDs. The THECB is recommending that administrators review local policy on usage of these services and comply with the following to ensure the validity of test administrations:

- Only TSIA-certified proctors
- Maximum of five administrations per proctor
- Strict adherence to all ACTA test certification requirements
- Adherence to security and other practices as outlined in the TSIA/Accuplacer platform located under the resource tab

TSIA 2.0

Lastly, the TSIA2 release date is postponed. The College Board is working to reschedule TSIA2 information sessions and TSIA proctor certification training as well as exploring alternative delivery methods.

Multiple Measures

For the 2020-21 school year, colleges and universities have relaxed their requirements for college preparation assessments and are using [multiple measures](#) for college placement and admissions in light of the limited opportunities to demonstrate college readiness. Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to, high school GPA, high school course-taking, and non-cognitive factors. Each institution of higher education determines the measure that will be used to determine college readiness. Check with your local institution of higher education for specific information.

For more information, this THECB [website](#) is regularly updated with COVID-19 related information. Please check their website and FAQs frequently as this is an evolving situation.

AP/IB Incentive Program

Teacher Training Reimbursement

The guidelines for teacher training reimbursement are posted on the [TEA website](#) and include approval for in person or online endorsed training that occurred between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020. The application for reimbursement will open in September 2020.

2020-2021 AP/IB Exams

Registration information for ordering 2021 exams is available on the [College Board AP Central](#) and [IBO](#) websites.

Due to this year's unusual circumstances, the College Board will not apply the \$40 unused/canceled exam fee for AP exams ordered. Students who order AP exams before November 17, 2020 will have until exam day to make the decision to test with no penalties. Visit the AP Central website to [read more](#) about AP exam costs, fees, and subsidies.

HB 3 College Preparation Assessment Reimbursements

SAT/ACT

TEA recognizes that many students' plans to take the SAT and/or the ACT have been postponed until the summer or fall administrations. Considering this rapidly evolving situation, TEA is expanding the college preparation assessment reimbursements to include summer 2020 testing administrations.

TSIA

[Districts may request TSIA reimbursement](#) via the online application which is now open. The application closes on **September 18**. For the 2019-2020 school year, TEA will reimburse districts for **both** the **TSIA test fee** and **eligible proctor fees**.

Reimbursement Eligibility

- **Seniors** who take either the SAT, ACT, or TSIA from **September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020** are eligible for reimbursement.
- **Juniors** who take either the SAT, ACT, or TSIA from **January 1, 2020 – August 31, 2020** are eligible for reimbursement.

As a reminder, college preparation assessment reimbursements will go to the district for the cost of one assessment per student. TEA will reimburse the highest cost exam. As new information becomes available, an updated FAQ with additional guidance will be posted on the [College Preparation Assessment Reimbursement webpage](#).

HB 3 IBC Reimbursements

Similarly, districts are eligible for reimbursements for IBCs earned from **September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020**. IBCs earned from September 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020 will be reported in Summer Submission 3. IBCs earned from June 1, 2020 – August 31, 2020 will be reported in Fall Submission 1. TEA has released an IBC reimbursement [FAQ](#) and will provide additional guidance on the [webpage](#) as it becomes available.

Additional Information

TEA continues to update the [COVID-19 website](#) as a central source of information for school districts. New resources are added on a regular basis. Please use this website as your initial source for information from TEA.

Program updates are posted often; stay informed by visiting the [Advanced Academics website](#). For additional questions regarding SAT/ACT, TSIA, AP and IB assessments and programs please contact Advanced Academics at advancedacademics@tea.texas.gov.