



HB 3 College Preparation Assessment, Industry-Based Certification Reimbursement and AP/IB Testing

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TEA continues to work with the Office of the Governor, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to coordinate and plan the state's response to COVID-19. In addition, we are working with the College Board, ACT, Inc., and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to mitigate the impact on our many Texas students participating in these programs. This letter contains updates on the House Bill 3 (HB 3) SAT, ACT, TSIA and Industry-Based Certification (IBC) testing and reimbursements as well as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) testing.

College Preparation Assessment Guidance: Section Topics

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SAT/ACT

National Testing

Revised
4/21/2020

The College Board cancelled both the May 2, 2020 and June 6, 2020 SAT and SAT Subject Test administration. Students who registered for May, whose March test centers were closed, or who do not receive March scores because of any irregularities will receive refunds. 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 in September and the previously scheduled tests on August 29, October 3, November 7, and December 5. Students can register for these administrations starting in May and eligible students can register with a fee waiver. Additionally, the College Board 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. rescheduled its April 4 national test date to June 13. All students registered for the April 4 test date will receive an email from ACT with instructions on rescheduling to June 13 or a future national test date. ACT will offer a flexible schedule for summer 2020 test dates. Students scheduled for summer 2020 may make free test date changes from the June to the July national test date.

New
4/21/2020

School Day/District Testing

Both vendors are assessing the impact on school day/district test administrations. Please check with your district and College Board/ACT representatives and websites for updates as they come.

New
4/21/2020

Remote Testing

If schools do not reopen this fall, the College Board will provide a digital SAT for home use. As with at-home AP Exams, the College Board would ensure that at-home SAT testing is simple; secure and fair; accessible to all; and valid for use in college admissions.

ACT is planning to offer test-at-home options for fall/winter 2020 as part of its national testing program.

Resources

TEA would like to encourage students, parents, and educators to utilize 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, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is encouraging testing centers to utilize [Examity and Proctor U](#). Examity is offering a reduced proctor fee of \$20 per test session. The THECB expects services to be live starting **April 17, 2020**, and to move quickly to full capacity by May 1.

Additionally, the College Board has permitted the use of video chat services (Zoom, WebEx, GoToMeeting, etc.) for TSIA test administration for ISDs. The THECB is recommending administrators to check local policy on usage of these services and to comply with the following to ensure the validity of 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 their resource tab

TSIA 2.0

Additionally, the TSIA2 release date is postponed to 9/28/20. All TSIA 2.0 trainings through May 31, 2020 are cancelled. The THECB is working to reschedule all sessions as well as exploring alternative delivery methods. All institutions will be notified with new training dates once they have been established.

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

IB Examinations

May 2020 IB examinations will not be administered

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) canceled the 2020 administration of IB exams and will move forward with a plan to award a Diploma or a Course Certificate for the work students have done throughout their program.

Revised
4/21/2020

The IBO will be taking the following actions for the 2020 May Examination session:

- The May 2020 examinations scheduled April 30 through May 22, for Diploma Programme and Career-related Programme candidates will no longer be held.
- Depending on their registrations, the student will be awarded a Diploma or a Course Certificate which reflects their standard of work. This is based on the student's coursework and the established assessment expertise, rigor and quality control already built into the programmes.

IBO will send full details and FAQs to IB schools prior to April 1, 2020. FAQs regarding testing cancellation may be found on IBO's [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) update page](#). Information regarding the Middle Years Programme eAssessment examinations (scheduled for May 11-22) will be provided on that website the first week of April.

Advanced Placement (AP)

May 2020 AP exams will be modified and administered online at home

- For the 2019–2020 exam administration **only**, students may take a 45-minute online free-response exam at home. Educator-led development committees are currently selecting the exam questions that will be administered. A blueprint of each exam can be found on [the College Boards Coronavirus updates webpage](#).
- **The College Board has provided** free remote learning resources to help students prepare for an AP exam with [live and on-demand](#) AP courses and review sessions.
- Students will be able to take these streamlined exams on any device they have access such as: computer, tablet, or smartphone.
- Students who need mobile tools or connectivity may [reach out directly to the College Board](#).
- The exam will only include topics and skills most AP teachers and students covered in class by early March.
- Students are encouraged to wait closer to the test date to decide whether to take the AP exam, however, **any student already registered for an exam may choose to cancel at no charge**.

HB 3 College Preparation Assessment Reimbursements

Governor's Office

In accordance with section §418.016 of the Texas Government Code, the Office of the Governor has granted TEA'S request to temporarily suspend Texas Education Code, Section §39.0261(a)(3). TEA asserts that strict compliance with these laws could prevent the state from reimbursing the cost of the TSI, ACT, or SAT exams as they intended to do under House Bill 3 (86R). This suspension is in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor or until the March 13, 2020 disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

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 testing administrations.

TSIA

TEA recognizes that many students' plans to take the TSIA have either changed to an online test administration at a higher cost or have been postponed. For the 2019-2020 school year, TEA will reimburse districts for **both** the **TSIA test fee** and **proctor fees**. TEA will also include summer testing administrations for reimbursement.

New
4/21/2020

Eligible Students for Reimbursement

- **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 assessments reimbursements will go to the district for the cost of one assessment per student. TEA will reimburse the highest cost exam to the district. An updated FAQ with additional guidance will be posted on the [College Preparation Assessment Reimbursement webpage](#) as new information becomes available.

HB 3 IBC Reimbursements

Similarly, districts can get 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. We have released the first version of the IBC reimbursement [FAQ](#) and will provide additional guidance on the [webpage](#) as they come.

Additional Information

TEA has established a [COVID-19 website](#) as a central source for information to school districts. Additional resources will continue to be 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 testing please contact Advanced Academics at advancedacademics@tea.texas.gov.

TEA working rapidly for the best solutions to allow our Texas students to continue to pursue and participate in these programs and continue in their educational journey. Thank you for all you do for the school children of Texas.