



TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Division for College Readiness and Success

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Memorandum

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To: University and Community/Technical College Chief
Academic/Instructional Officers; THECB University and
Community/Technical College Liaisons; TSI/DE Listserv; University
and Community/Technical College Reporting Officials

From: Suzanne Morales-Vale, PhD, Senior Director
Division of College Readiness and Success

Subject: Newly Approved Exemption for the Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

The Division for College Readiness and Success is pleased to announce the recent approval by the Coordinating Board to expand the exemptions used for the Texas Success Initiative (Texas Administrative Code, §4.54). Effective May 12, 2021, students who meet the college readiness benchmarks on the state's approved high school equivalency (HSE) tests will qualify for a TSI exemption. Please see the approved tests and relevant benchmarks below:

GED:

- A minimum score of 165 on the Mathematical Reasoning subject test shall be exempt for mathematics
- A minimum score of 165 on the Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA) subject test shall be exempt for English Language Arts Reading (ELAR)

HiSET:

- A minimum score of 15 on the Mathematics subtest shall be exempt for mathematics
- A minimum score of 15 on the Reading subtest and a minimum score of 15 on the Writing subtest, including a minimum score of 4 on the essay, shall be exempt for English Language Arts Reading (ELAR)

Like similar exemptions for TSI purposes, the high school equivalency test exemptions are valid up to five (5) years from date of testing. While the date of testing can be anytime within the five (5) year time frame, applicability for TSI purposes and placements starts 5/12/21. Reporting officials will receive under separate cover additional guidance related to CBM reporting.

IMPORTANT NOTE: HiSET has informed the Texas Education Agency that it will no longer administer its test after 8/31/21. Therefore, HiSET scores with test administration dates after 8/31/21 will no longer be useable for the TSI exemption. However, HiSET college-readiness scores with test dates on or prior to 8/31/21 will still be useable up to five (5) years from date of testing. Note also that it is not relevant where the student has taken the approved HSE test (in or out-of-state) when considering applicability for the TSI exemption, only the test date and its related test score(s).