

AGENDA ITEM X-H (4)

Consideration and possible action to adopt proposed amendments to Chapter 4, Subchapter C, Section 4.54(a)(1)(A) of Board rules, concerning the Texas Success Initiative Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waivers

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption

Background Information:

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) proposes amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, Rule 4.54, concerning the ACT assessment. Specifically, this amendment will codify the updated college readiness benchmarks for the ACT assessment administered on or after February 15, 2023. These benchmarks are used by entering undergraduates to qualify for an exemption under the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) provided in Texas Education Code (TEC), Subchapter F-1, Section 51.331 (et seq.).

In order to provide the most current standards for students to qualify for an exemption under the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative, the Board periodically updates the benchmarks students use to qualify for a TSI exemption. This amendment outlines updated benchmarks for the ACT, one of the assessments undergraduate students use to demonstrate readiness to enroll in entry-level college courses without support or with concurrent support, as required under TSI. Authority to adopt rules is provided in TEC, Section 51.344.

Jennielle Strother, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner for Student Success, will be available to answer questions.

Date Published in the *Texas Register*: October 14, 2022

The 30-day comment period with the *Texas Register* ended on: November 14, 2022.

No comments were received regarding this rule.

CHAPTER 4:
RULES APPLYING TO ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TEXAS

SUBCHAPTER C:
TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE

Section 4.54. Exemptions, Exceptions and Waivers.

(a) The following students shall be exempt from the requirements of this title, whereby exempt students shall not be required to provide any additional demonstration of college readiness and shall be allowed to enroll in any entry-level freshman course as defined in §4.53(13) of this title (relating to Definitions):

(1) For a period of five (5) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs at or above the following standards that cannot be raised by institutions:

(A) ACT[;]

(i) ACT administered prior to February 15, 2023: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on the English test shall be exempt for both the reading and writing sections of the TSI Assessment, and/or 19 on the mathematics test shall be exempt for the mathematics section of the TSI Assessment.[:]

(ii) ACT administered on or after February 15, 2023: a combined score of 40 on the English and Reading (E+R) tests shall be exempt for both reading and writing or ELAR sections of the TSI Assessment. A score of 22 on the mathematics test shall be exempt for the mathematics section of the TSI Assessment. There is no composite score.

(iii) The use of scores from both the ACT administered prior to February 15, 2023, and the ACT administered after February 15, 2023, is allowable, as long as the benchmarks set forth in clause (ii) of this subparagraph are met.

(B) - (D) No change.

(2) - (10) No change.

(b) - (d) No change.