

Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and TSI Assessment, Version 2.0 (TSIA2) Updates

Alamo Colleges District Dual Credit Conference
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Presenter

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Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Rules Update

What is College Readiness? (THECB)

Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

Statute applies to all public Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in Texas

TSI Statute requirement highlights :

1. **Assessment** of academic skills to determine readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework for each entering, non-exempt undergraduate student ([Rule §4.55](#)). *The only Board approved instrument for this purpose is the TSIA2.*
2. **Advise and develop an individualized “plan for academic success”** for each undergraduate student who doesn’t meet the minimum passing standards related to college readiness ([Rule §4.58](#)).

An institution may not use the TSIA2 or its results as a condition of admission to the institution (Rule §4.55(g)).

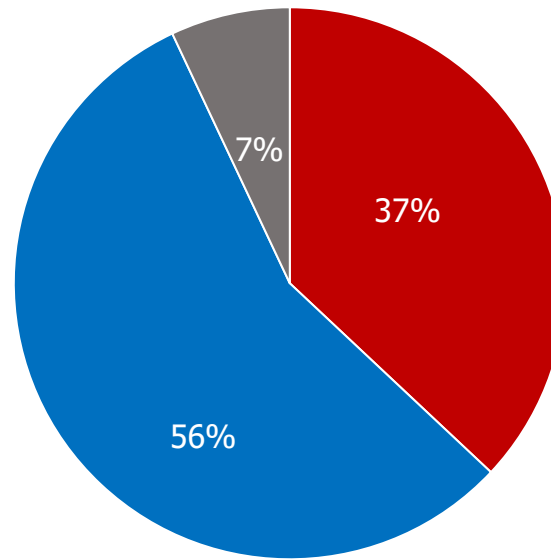
How can a student demonstrate College Readiness? (THECB)

- TSI Assessment (TSIA/TSIA2)
- ACT
- SAT
- STAAR EOC – English III and Algebra II (4000)
- College Preparatory Course (CPC)
- Earned college credit in reading, writing, or math-intensive course
(institutions determine the subject-area intensity of their entry-level courses)

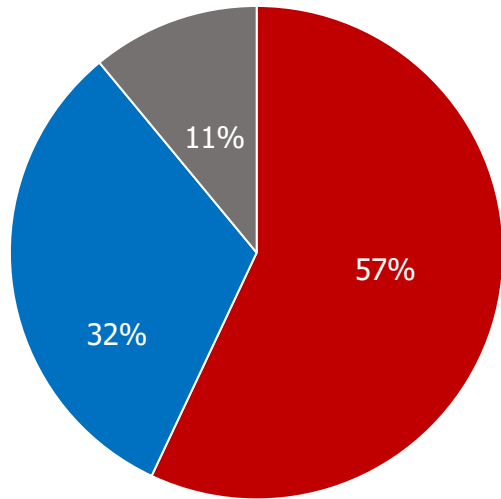
See [TAC Rule 4.54](#) for full list of exemptions.

56% of FTIC students entered college ready (TSI-Met) in Fall 2020

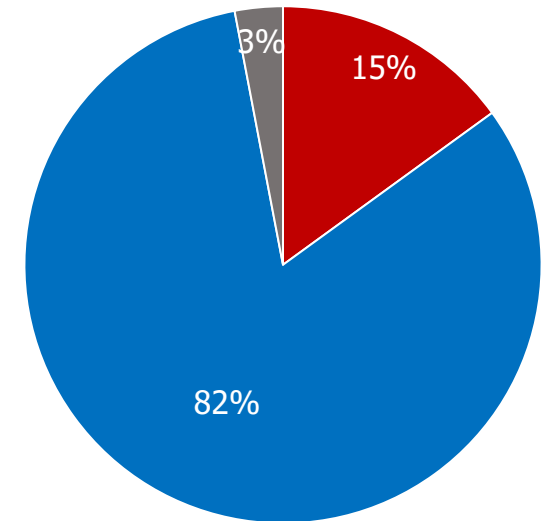
Statewide



Two-Year Colleges



Four-Year Universities

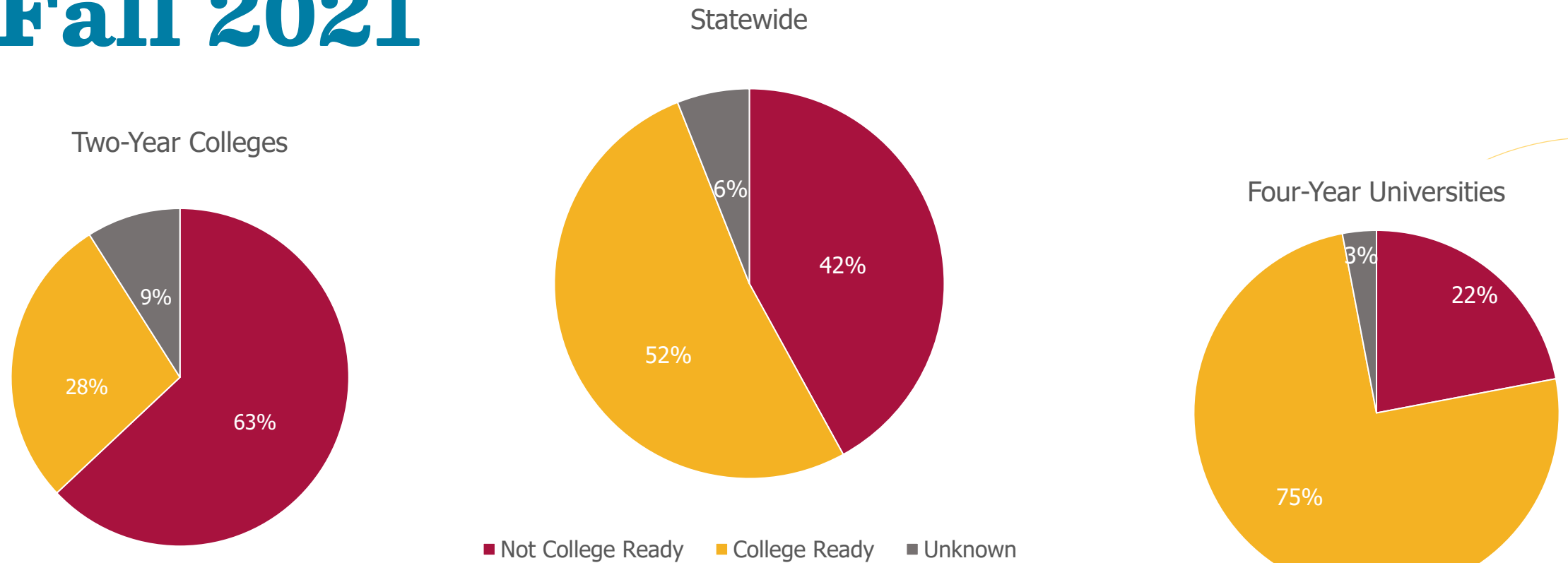


■ Not College Ready ■ College Ready ■ Unknown

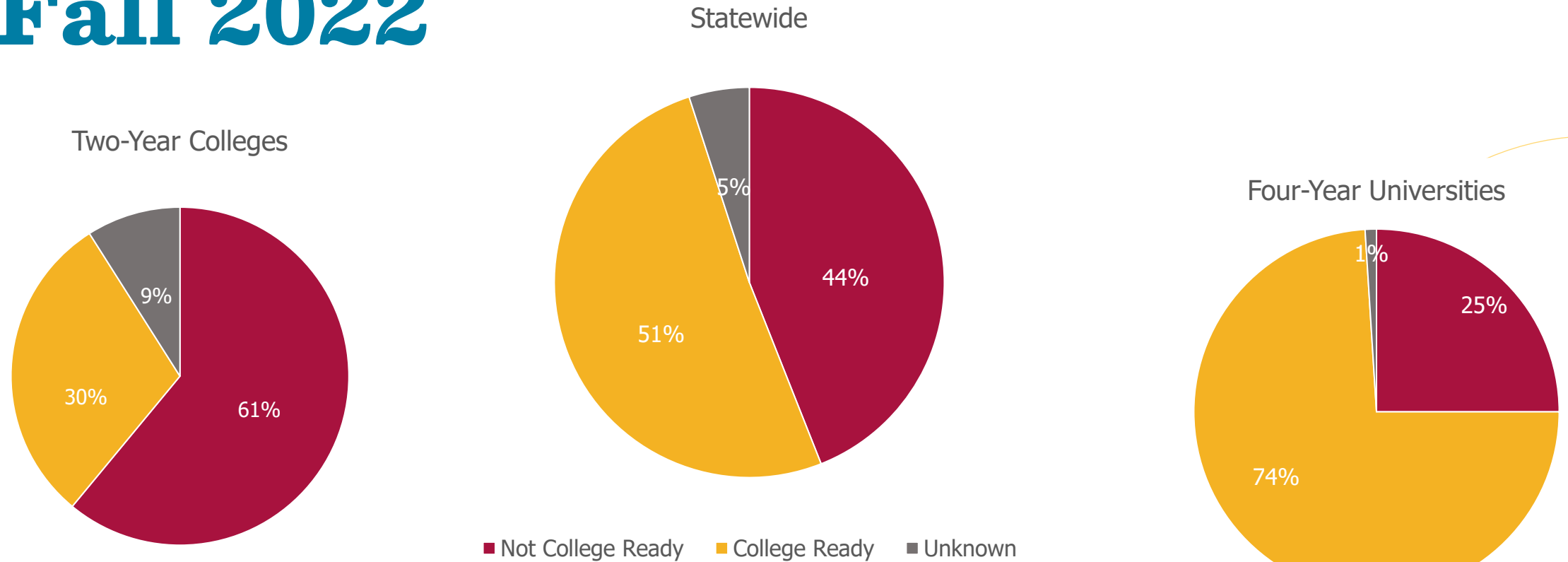
**College ready students refer to those who met TSI benchmarks in all of math, reading, and writing; Not college-ready students refer to those who did not meet TSI benchmarks in one or more subjects; Unknown refer to students whose TSI benchmark is unknown in one or more subjects.*

Source: THECB CBM002, CBM001

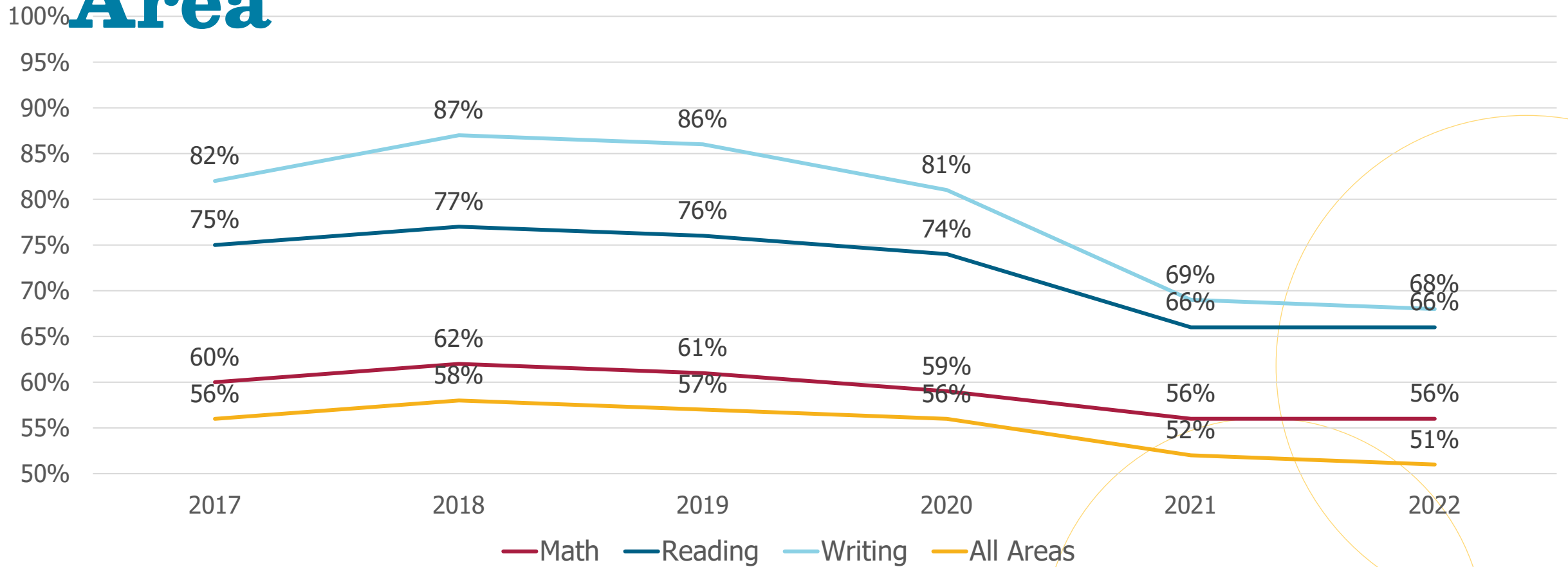
52% of FTIC students entered college ready (TSI-Met) in Fall 2021



51% of FTIC students entered college ready (TSI-Met) in Fall 2022



Percentage of FTIC Cohort Entering College Ready by Subject Area



THECB Rule Updates



THECB Rule Updates

On April 25, 2024, the Board approved rule changes effective May 16, 2024, impacting:

- Texas Success Initiative (TSI) - TAC Rules §4.51 – 4.63
- Dual Credit - TAC Rule §4.85
- Optional Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Program (College Connect Courses) - TAC Rule §4.86
- Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program – TAC Rules §13.500 – 13.506

THECB Rule 4.52 (Applicability)

- (a) Except as set out in subsection (b) of this section, this subchapter applies to each entering undergraduate student not otherwise exempt under §4.54 of this subchapter (relating to Exemption).
- (b) This subchapter does not apply to the following students, and an institution shall not require these students to demonstrate college readiness pursuant to this subchapter. The following figure contains the full list of student categories to whom this subchapter does not apply. [Attached Graphic](#)
 - (1) A student who has earned an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education;
 - (2) A student who transfers to an institution of higher education from a private or independent institution of higher education or an accredited out-of-state institution of higher education and who has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework in the corresponding subject area, as transcribed or otherwise determined by the receiving institution;

THECB Rule 4.52 (Applicability)

(b) This subchapter does not apply to the following students, and an institution shall not require these students to demonstrate college readiness pursuant to this subchapter. The following figure contains the full list of student categories to whom this subchapter does not apply. [Attached Graphic](#)

- (3) A student who is enrolled in a certificate program of one year or less at a public junior college, a public technical institute, or a public state college;
- (4) A student enrolled in high school who is a non-degree-seeking student as defined in §4.53(8) of this subchapter (relating to Definitions);
- (5) A student who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, the Texas National Guard, or as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States; or
- (6) A student who on or after August 1, 1990, was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard or service as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States.

THECB Rule 4.53 (Definitions)

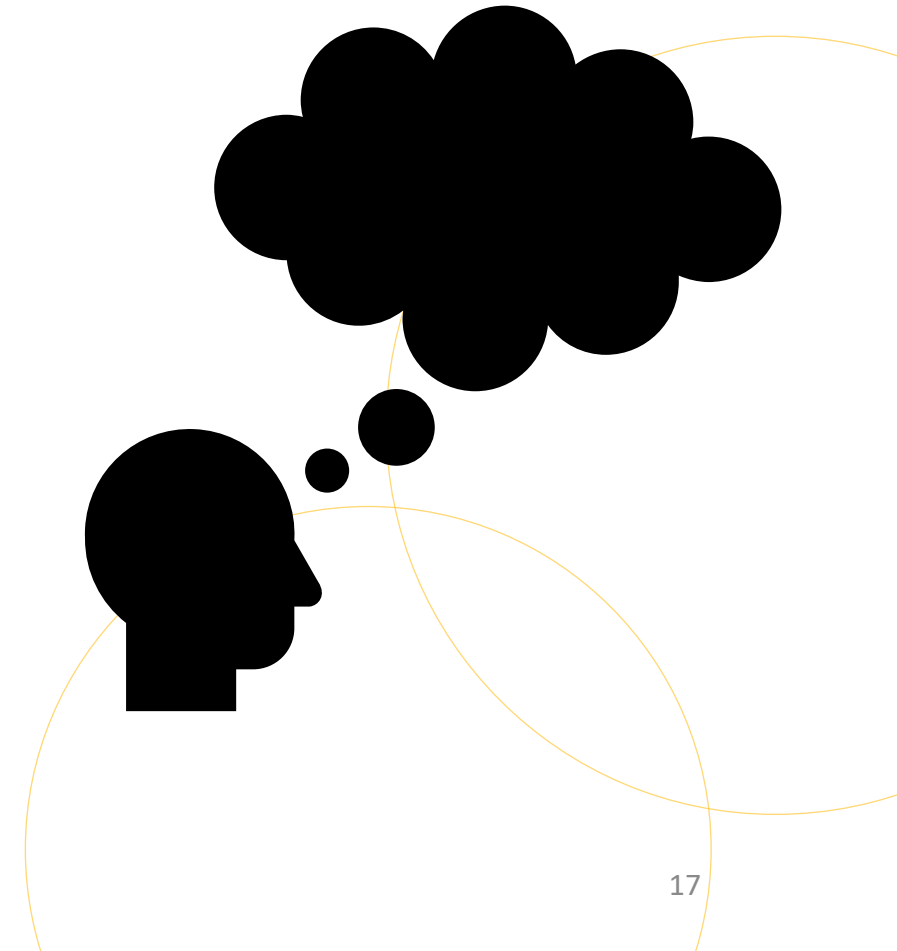
- (8) Non-Degree-Seeking Student--A student who has not filed a degree plan with an institution of higher education and is not required to do so pursuant to Texas Education Code, §51.9685.

TSI Rule Update: College Prep Course

Former (TAC RULE 4.54 (a)(10))	New TAC RULE 4.54 (c)(1)
<p>(10) A student who successfully completes a college preparatory course under Texas Education Code §28.014 is exempt for a period of twenty-four (24) months from the date of high school graduation with respect to the content area of the course. The student must enroll in the student's first college-level course in the exempted content area in the student's first year of enrollment in an institution of higher education. This exemption applies only at the institution of higher education that partners with the school district in which the student is enrolled to provide the course. Additionally, an institution of higher education may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with a partnering institution of higher education to accept the exemption for the college preparatory course.</p>	<p>(1) A student who successfully completes a college preparatory course under Texas Education Code, §28.014, is exempt for a period of twenty-four (24) months from the date of high school graduation with respect to the content area of the course, under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) The student enrolls in the student's first college-level course in the exempted content area in the student's first year of enrollment in an institution of higher education; and(B) The student enrolls at the institution of higher education:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) that partnered with the school district in which the student is enrolled to provide the course, or(ii) with an institution that deems the student TSI-met based on the completion of a course that meets the requirements of subsection (c)(1) of this section.

College Prep Course Considerations for TSI

- College Prep Courses (CPC):
 - Cannot be used for dual credit eligibility. CPC exemption becomes available for use at time of high school graduation.
 - Must be completed no later than student's high school graduation date.
- Institutions accepting CPC completions other than their own should be aware of the successful completion criteria (e.g., HS credit vs TSI exemption thresholds)



Texas Success Initiative Assessment, Version 2.0 (TSIA2) Updates

Who should take the TSIA2?

High school students seeking to demonstrate college readiness with intent to enroll in ELAR or math-intensive college courses.

High school complete students for the purpose of determining college readiness and placement into appropriate courses.

Who should NOT take the TSIA2?

Eighth grade students

- Rising ninth graders can be administered the TSIA2 by a high school that may require assessment (e.g., ECHS, P-Tech, etc.) or for the purpose of enrolling in an ELAR or math-intensive college level course. General administration of the TSIA2 to this population is not recommended.
- Middle schools are not eligible to administer the TSIA2 or to serve as testing sites in the TSIA2 platform. All testing should take place under approved testing sites (e.g., high school or higher education).

Teachers, faculty, or staff

- The TSIA2 shall not be administered to non-students.

Pre-Assessment Activity

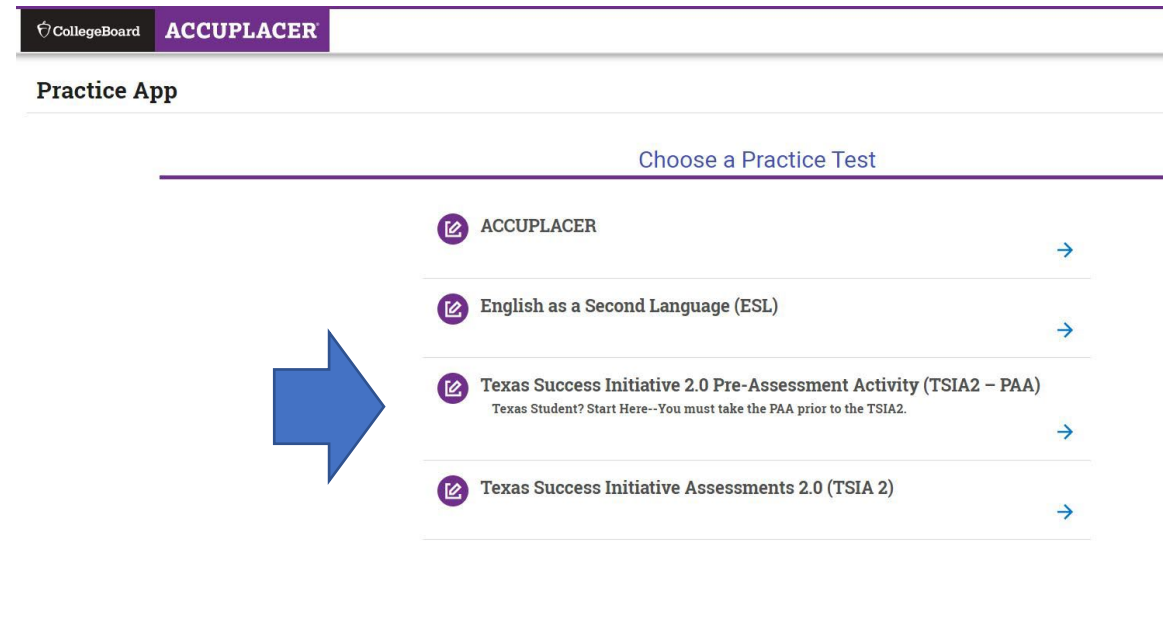
Required prior to initial administration of TSI assessment [TAC Rule §4.55\(d\)](#)

Test Administrators (ISD/IHE) may create their own PAA, use a PAA from another Texas public institution of higher education, OR

- use the THECB supported PAA that is FREE through [College Board's Accuplacer Practice Test App](#).

Test Administrators may develop local PAA policy regarding students who are **retesting**.

PAA reporting can be accessed through custom reports in the TSIA2 platform)



The screenshot shows the ACCUPLACER Practice App interface. At the top, there is a header with the CollegeBoard logo and the word "ACCUPLACER". Below the header, the text "Practice App" is displayed. A horizontal line separates the header from the main content area. The main content area has a heading "Choose a Practice Test" followed by a list of four practice tests, each with a pencil icon on the left and a right-pointing arrow on the right:

- ACCUPLACER
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Texas Success Initiative 2.0 Pre-Assessment Activity (TSIA2 - PAA)
Texas Student? Start Here--You must take the PAA prior to the TSIA2.
- Texas Success Initiative Assessments 2.0 (TSIA 2)

A large blue arrow points from the text on the left towards the screenshot, specifically highlighting the "Texas Success Initiative 2.0 Pre-Assessment Activity (TSIA2 - PAA)" option in the list.

TSI Assessment, Version 2.0 (TSIA2)

Launched January 11, 2021

Major Enhancements include:

- Integration of Reading and Writing tests into one new test - English Language Arts Reading (ELAR)
- Reduced diagnostic tests to one per subject area
- Second chance pass opportunity for math through diagnostic test
- Student may send scores directly to institutions at time of testing and through Student Portal (<https://tsia2.accuplacer.org/>)

TSIA2: College Readiness Benchmarks

TSIA2 CR Benchmarks	
English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)	CRC \geq 945 and Essay \geq 5; CRC $<$ 945 and Diagnostic Level \geq 5 and Essay \geq 5*
Mathematics	CRC \geq 950; CRC $<$ 950 and Diagnostic Level = 6
CRC – College Readiness Classification Test CRC Range: 910 – 990 Diagnostic Level Range: 1 – 6 *Essay Range: 1 – 8 (Score of Zero (0) indicates essay was not able to be evaluated and cannot be used for the purpose of placement.	

TSIA2: Understanding the Scores

Diagnostic Profile – three components

- Overall Diagnostic Level Score (1 – 6)
- Proficiency indicator and statement for each strand (Basic, Proficient, or Advanced)
 - Each proficiency level contains a range
 - The same combination of proficiency indicators may not result in the same overall diagnostic level score
- Learning Locator Code (LLC) for TSIA2 Resources for each area in which the benchmark is not met.

TSIA2 Learning Resources

TSIA2 Learning Resources is a free, online library of instructional and practice materials aligned to TSIA2 content. Comprised of vetted open education resources, materials may include printable or interactive worksheets, tutorials, and instructional videos.

Ability to browse and filter resources by TSIA2 subject area and content strands, and/or the type, format, and difficulty (additional filters available to educators (e.g., TXCCRS, TEKS, etc.)

TSIA2 Learning Resources should be used as a preparation tool for the TSIA2; strongly recommend for use with high school College Prep Courses

TSIA2 Learning Resources

Access available for both students and educators

URL: <https://tsia2.pearsonperspective.com>

Pass Phrase: XXXXX

- required to establish an educator account
- located on landing page of TSIA2 platform after login
- all TSIA2 platform users have access to Pass Phrase

Learn more by watching these brief videos:

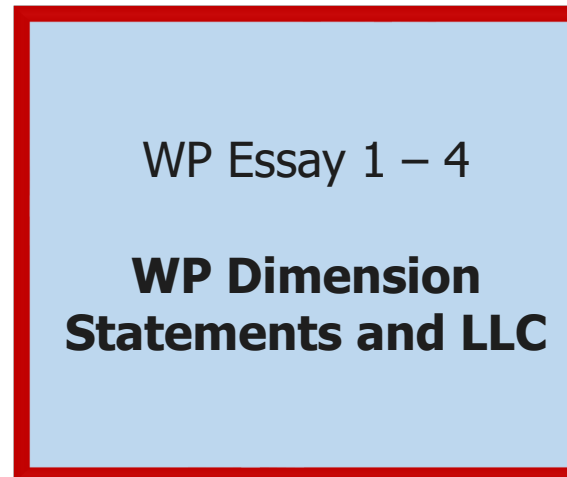
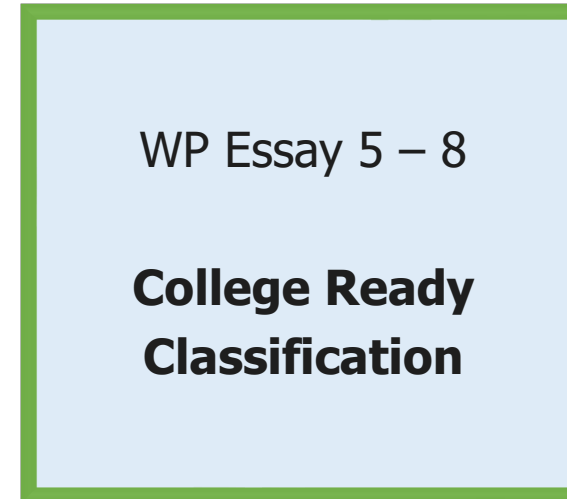
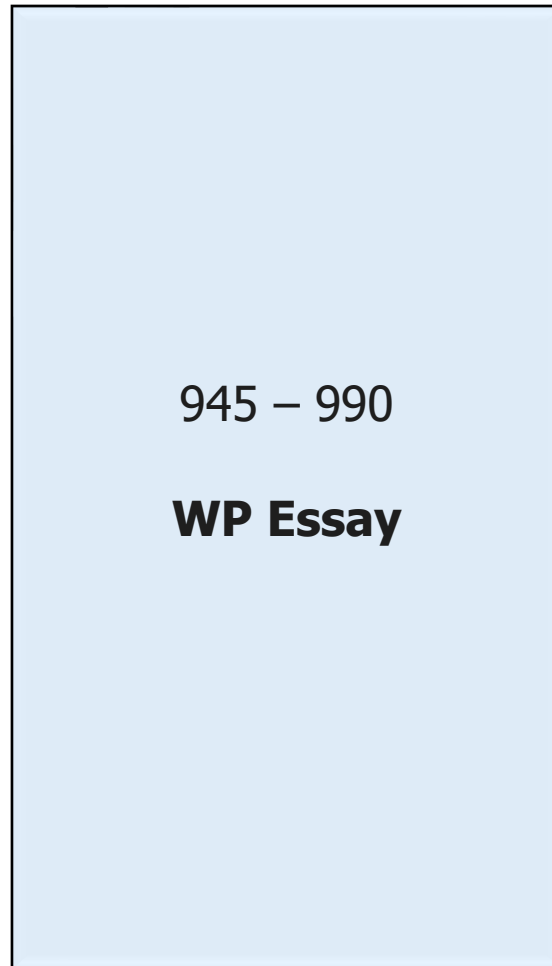
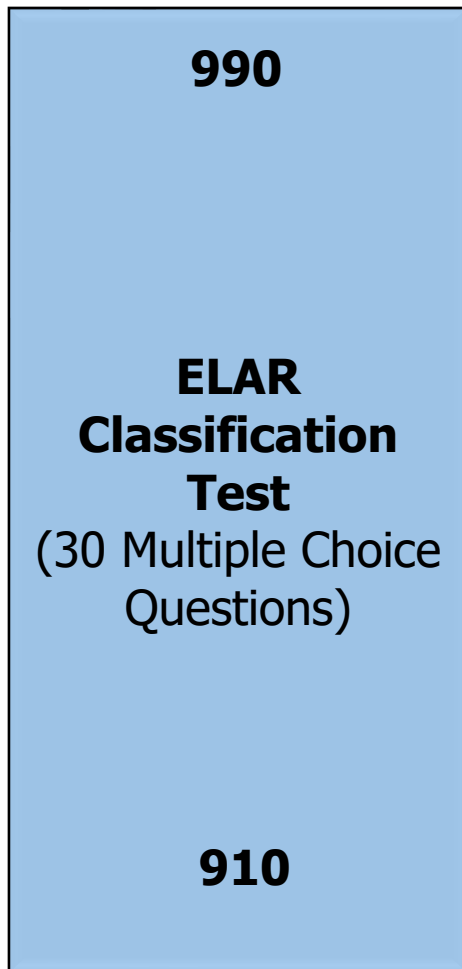
- TSIA2 Learning Resources for Educators
<https://youtu.be/ntbjRcTmudY> 2:42
- TSIA2 Learning Resources for Students
<https://youtu.be/VR5pNFv0g54> 1:37

TSIA2 ELAR Branching Profile Update

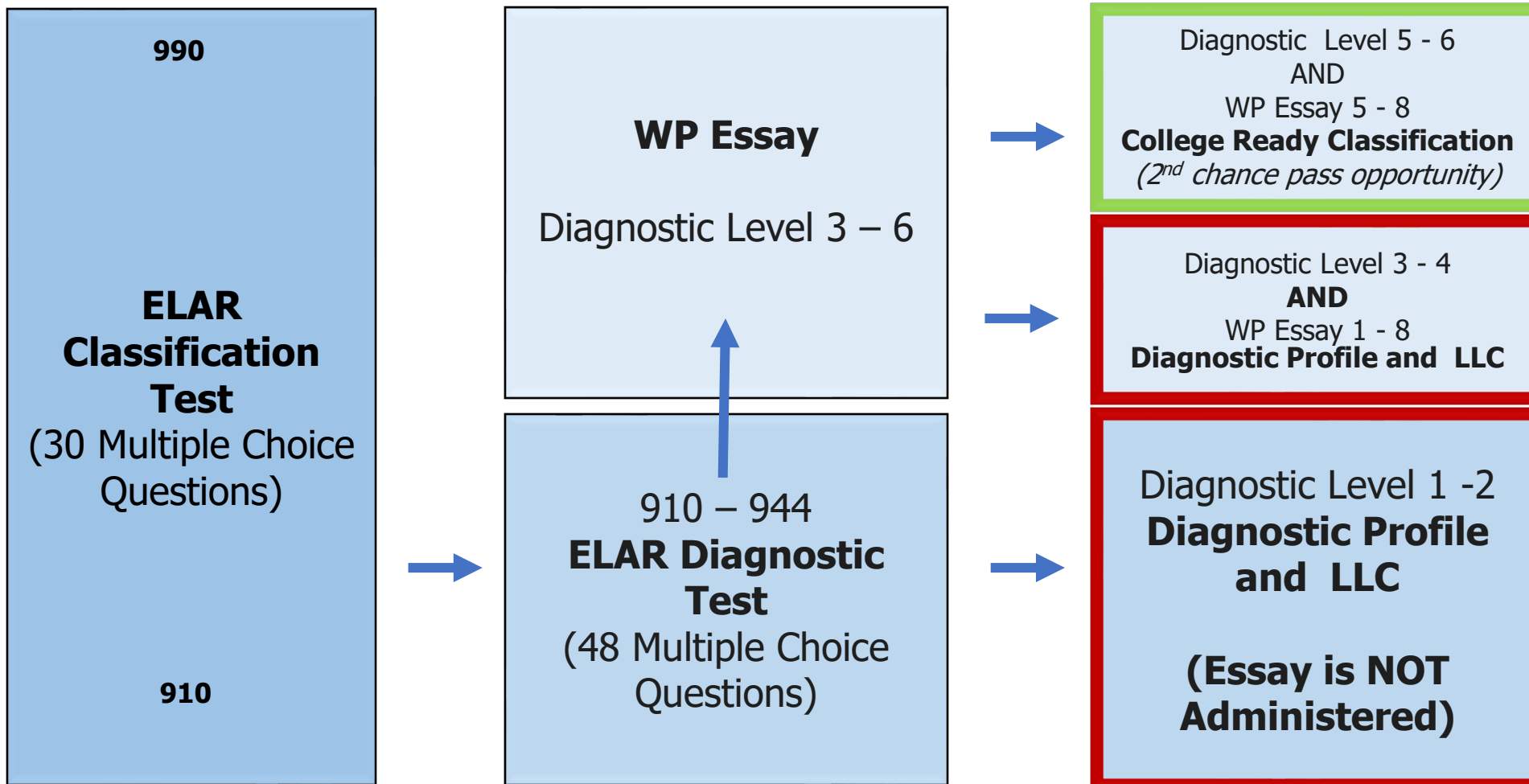
Effective January 3, 2023, students who score at Level 3 on the ELAR diagnostic test are also routed to the essay (WritePlacer). Prior to, a Level 4 or higher was required.

This change does not create an additional path for the student to demonstrate college readiness. However, it increases the amount of actionable data available to institutions in determining the appropriate developmental education intervention (e.g., DE course, NCBO) placement for high school complete students. Further it provides many additional students with an opportunity to demonstrate writing proficiency.

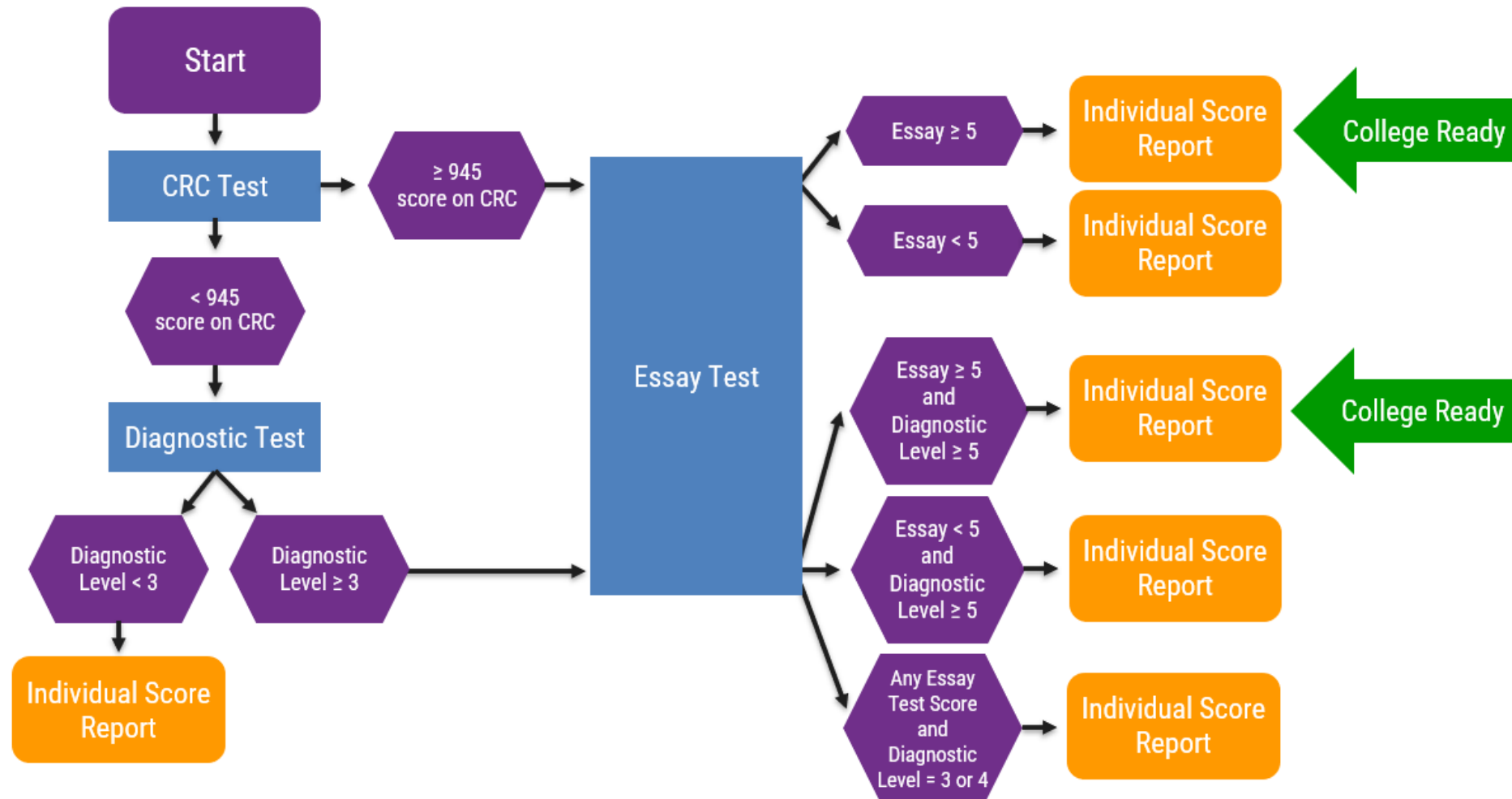
TSIA2: ELAR Branching Profile (CRC \geq 945)



TSIA2: ELAR Branching Profile (CRC < 945)



TSIA2 ELAR Test Flowchart



TSIA2 ELAR Retesting Update

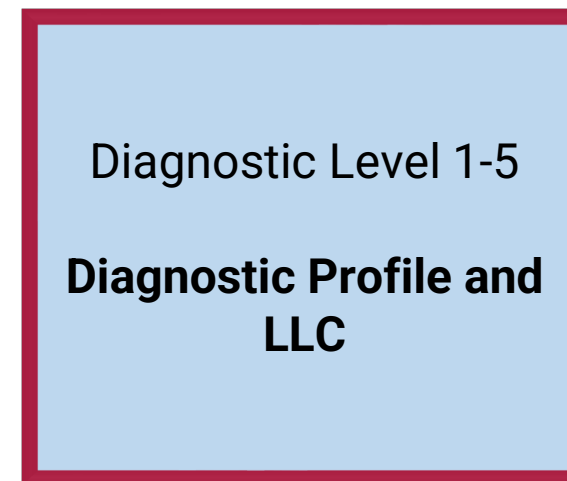
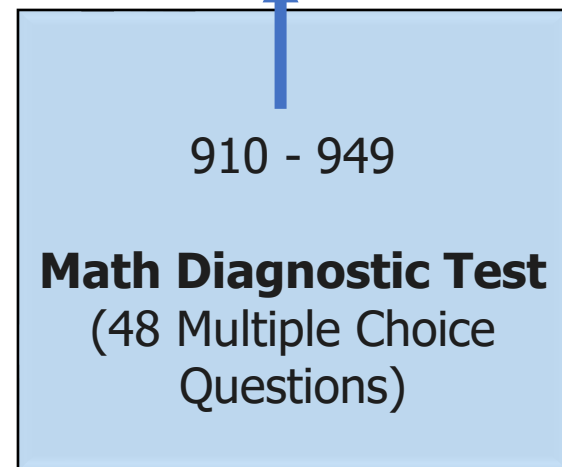
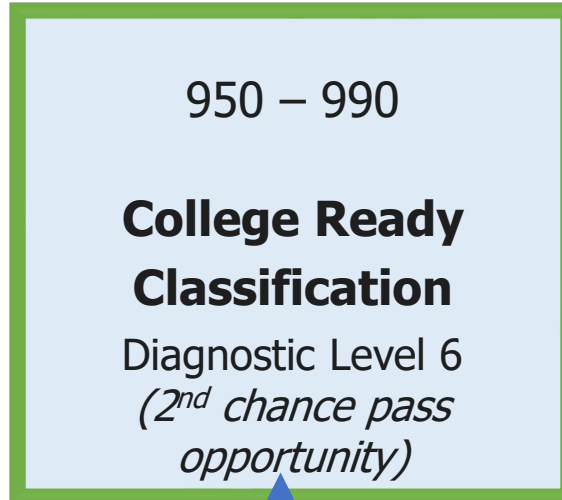
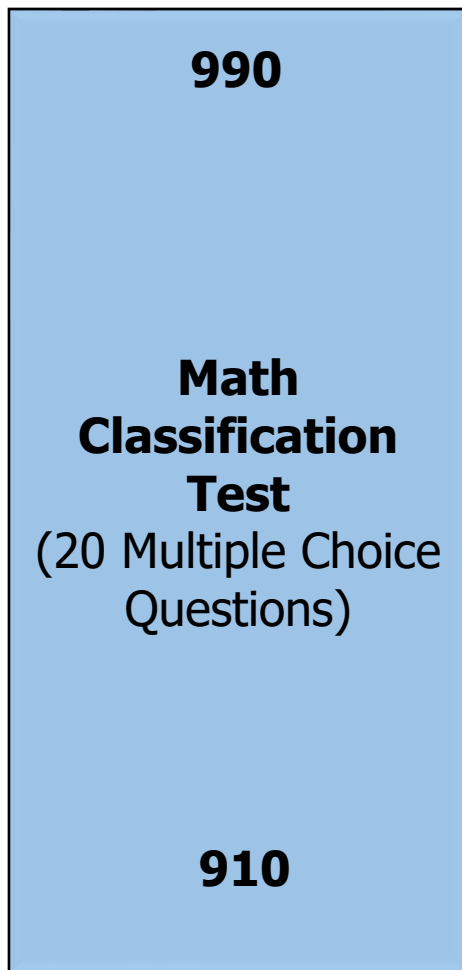
ELAR Standalone Retest Policy (Effective September 9, 2024)

High School Student Initial Testing

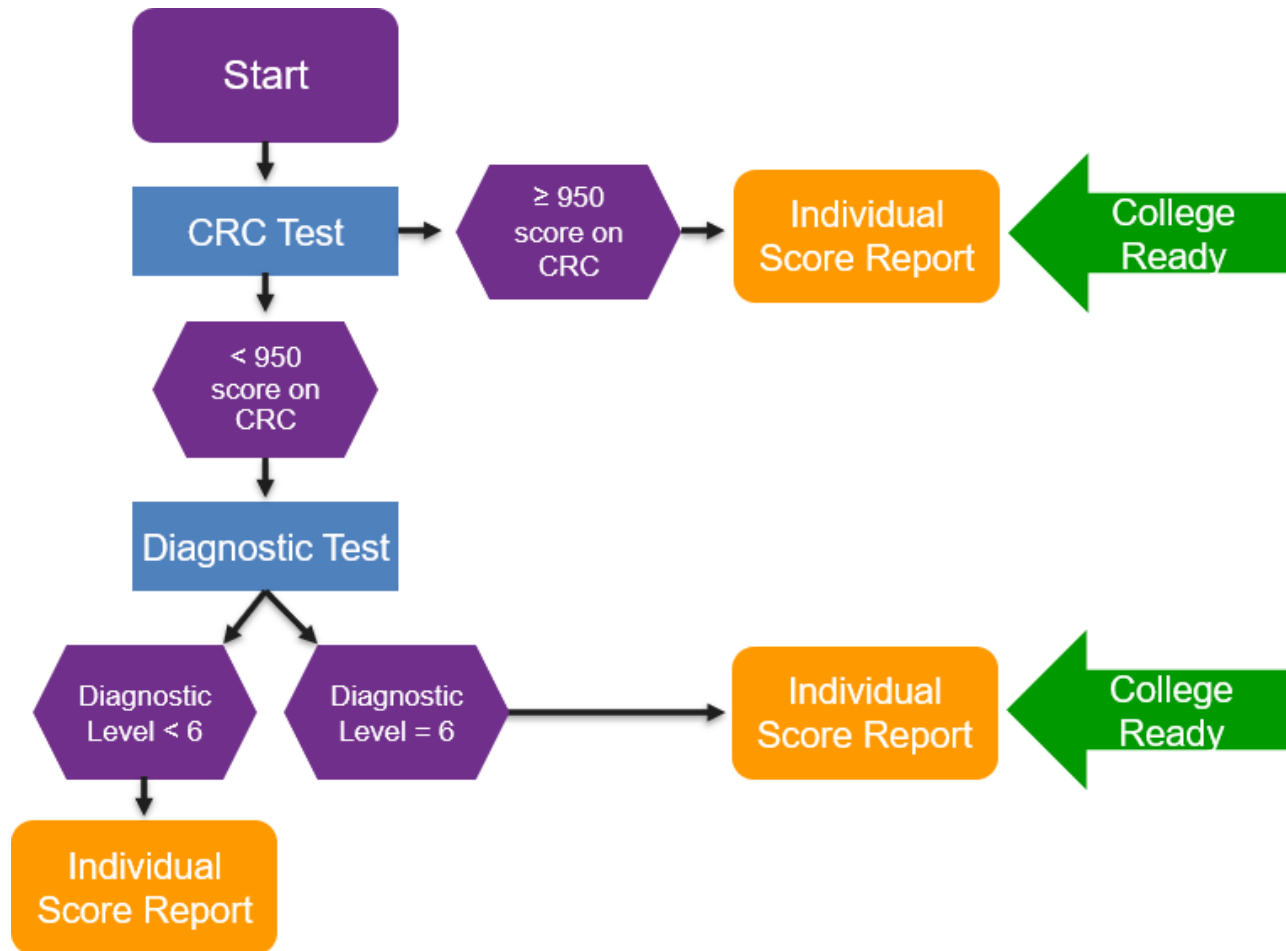
Effective September 9, 2024, TSI Assessment test administrators may administer to high school students only, standalone ELAR test components: 1) CRC and diagnostic test (as applicable), and 2) Essay for **initial** ELAR test administrations.

When administering ELAR test components separately, test administrators must be mindful that a determination of college readiness cannot be made with scores from just one of the two required components. *In determining college readiness as outlined in [TAC RULE §4.57 \(TSIA College Readiness Standards\)](#), passing scores for both the ELAR test components are required.*

TSIA2: Math Branching Profile



TSIA2 Mathematics Test Flowchart



TSIA2 Important Reminders

- TSIA2 Test Administrators must adhere to all applicable policies and procedures related to administering the test from the THECB and test vendor. Failure to do so may result in loss of access to administer the TSIA2. Common issues include:
 - Failure to administer the Pre-Assessment Activity prior to initial testing
 - Modifying Branching Profiles
 - ELAR test administration that do not align with testing protocols ([link to guidance](#))
 - Administering TSIA2 test to teachers, faculty, or staff (not allowed under any circumstance)
- Institutions cannot accept scores not aligned with proper administration of the TSIA2 (e.g., administering ELAR CRC and Essay stand-alone outside of ELAR retest options.)

Demo Test Site Use

- Purpose of the Demo Test Site is to test accommodation software ONLY (e.g., screen readers)
- Test units shall not be allocated to the Demo site for purposes other than its intended use.

TSIA2 Accommodations

- There are several accommodations automatically provided
 - Untimed
 - Save and continue later feature (not available for Essay)
 - Pop-up (on-screen) calculators (four-function, square root, or graphing (TI-84)) available for math tests as applicable.
Physical (handheld) calculators are not permitted for use with the TSIA2
 - Highlighter feature available for both ELAR and math tests

TSIA2 Accommodations

K-12 TSIA2 test administrators must work with disabilities services office or equivalent at the partnering IHE to determine appropriate accommodation(s) beyond those automatically provided.

Additional guidance can be found in the [TSIA2 Accommodations Guidelines Document](#) on the THECB TSI/DE Webpage under Understanding the TSIA2.

TSIA2 Calculator Use Policy

Online (Computer Adaptive Version)

Hand-held calculators of any kind are NOT allowed for the online (computer-adaptive) version. On-screen calculators are provided as applicable per math question.

Companion (Accommodated) Versions (Paper/Pencil)

Only basic four-function calculators with the square root feature can be used. There are no questions on the accommodated versions that warrant the use of a graphing calculator.

College Readiness Best Practices

College Readiness Best Practices

High Schools

- Equitably place students in advanced learning opportunities
- Assess students for college readiness and administer the TSIA2 EARLY! (spring semester, junior year)
- Enroll students in College Prep Course (e.g., Texas College Bridge) in the fall semester of senior year
 - Course is eligible for high school English and math credits
 - Course must be successfully completed by high school graduation *to qualify for TSI CPC exemption*

TSI Support Resources

- Visit the [THECB TSI/DE Webpage](#) for access TSI/DE Resources including but not limited to:
 - Informational Brochures
 - Test Specification Documents
 - Sample Test Questions and Practice Tests
 - Topic Specific Guidance Documents (e.g., ELAR Retest Options, Accommodations, Flexible use of TSI and TSI Essay Scores, etc.)
- THECB YouTube Channel (Webinars and Training Videos)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/TxHigherEd/videos>
 - Recommended search terms: TSI, TSI
- Student Portal (Student Resources)
 - <https://studentportal.accuplacer.org/#/home>
 - Retrieve scores, TSI practice, Informational brochures, Tutorials
- TSI Learning Resources
 - <https://tsi2.pearsonperspective.com/perspective/>

THECB TSI/DE Gov Delivery List Serv

Sign up to receive the latest updates and information related to the TSI, TSIA, and Developmental Education (DE).

(https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHECB/subscriber/new?qsp=TXHECB_8)

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