Improving Student Persistence and Success: 

*Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and Developmental Education Redesign*
Fostering a Seamless P-16 Pipeline

HB 1 (79th Legislature, Third Called Session) – Development of Texas College and Career Readiness Standards (TxCCRS)

Approval by Board (January 2008)

Alignment of K-12 with Texas College and Career Readiness Standards

Alignment of higher education readiness assessments with Texas College and Career Readiness Standards

Alignment of remediation with student needs
  • Redesign of advising and developmental education
  • Identification of students with ABE skill-levels
  • Redesign of ABE programs
More accurate determination of skill levels

Current Assessments

Not College Ready

College Ready

New TSI Assessment

College Ready

DE-skill levels

skill levels
Agenda

Developmental Education Advisory Committee and Assessment Task Force

TSI Assessment
  TSI Test Development
  College-Readiness and Developmental Education Standard Cut-Scores
  Approval of Recommended Cut-Scores

Pathways to Persistence and Success: Next Steps
  Advising and Placement
  Developmental Education Redesign
  Adult Basic Education

Communication Strategy
Stakeholder Contributions to the Redesign of Developmental Education and Assessment

Lynda Villanueva, Ph.D.
Vice President, Academic & Student Affairs
Brazosport College

• Developmental Education Advisory Committee
• Assessment Task Force
New Texas Success Initiative Assessment

Creating a single statewide college-readiness standard
Current TSI practices will change in fall 2013

CURRENT

• Texas Success Initiative authorized multiple assessments to establish student readiness using state approved cut-scores in math, reading, and writing.
• Variation across institutions in the assessments and cut-scores used

NEW (starting fall 2013)

• One statewide assessment instrument
• One standard that cannot be raised by institutions of higher education
The development of the new TSI assessment has been a collaborative process inclusive of a wide-range of stakeholders.

**Texas Legislature** approved HB 1244 which gives the Coordinating Board the authority to adopt one TSI assessment.

**Statewide implementation** of new TSI assessment.

- **2011**
  - Faculty leaders and assessment experts developed the infrastructure for the state’s first diagnostic TSI assessment.
- **2012**
  - THECB staff provided statewide informational sessions for institutions.
- **2013**
The new TSI assessment will be the first of its kind in the country

✓ Aligns to the **Texas College and Career Readiness Standards**

✓ Aligns to **national ABE standards** and will **diagnose accurate placement**

✓ Includes **diagnostic component** to identify specific student weaknesses

✓ Board approved **no-cost contract** with The College Board

✓ **Computer-Adaptive Assessment**

✓ **Low cost** for institutions ($11)
The majority of FTIC students are exempt from the Texas Success Initiative Assessment

Percentage of Students TSI Exempt - Fall 2011
All Students (Direct and Not Direct from High School) (n=196,010)

Examples of TSI Exemptions
- Military
- ACT/SAT
- College credit
- Non-degree/non certificate seekers
- HS Assessment
The vast majority of Developmental Education is provided by Community Colleges

Total FTIC Students in Developmental Education (76,909)*

TWO-YEAR COLLEGES (67,197) 53.7%

39.2%

UNIVERSITIES (9,712) 13.7%

*Fall 2011 Cohort
COLLEGE BOARD STAFF
TEST DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Review of Standards and Gap Analyses (Spring 2012)
- Meeting with TX Faculty* – (May 2012)
- Item Development and Field Testing (Summer 2012 and ongoing)
- Item Review Teams* (January 2013)
- Standard Setting Teams* (January 2013)
- CAWS Committee Consideration of Proposed Standards (March 2013)
- THECB Board Consideration of Proposed Standards (April 2013)

*TX Faculty Members Included Higher Education, K-12, and ABE
ITEM REVIEW AND STANDARD SETTING TEAMS

✓ Faculty recruited from across Texas

✓ Representative teams were selected based on several criteria:

- Institution Type (19 Universities, 45 Community Colleges, 8 Other Education Groups including ISDs)
- Geographic Location
- Instructional Experience
- Knowledge of Standards (TX CCRS)
- Courses Taught (Credit Bearing, DE, ABE, HS)
- Gender/Ethnicity
# RANGE OF PERFORMANCE LEVELS: TEST SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adult Basic Education</th>
<th>Developmental Education</th>
<th>College Ready</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>390</td>
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More accurate determination of skill levels

Current Assessments

Not College Ready

College Ready

New TSI Assessment

DE-skill levels

DE-skill levels
Final Recommended
College Read**y** performance levels

**Mathematics** 369
**Reading** 359
**Writing** Essay Score of 5; *or*
Essay Score of 4 and Multiple Choice of 363

Final Recommended
**Developmental Education** performance levels

**Mathematics** 336
**Reading** 342
**Writing** 350
Anticipated Placements applying Final Cut Scores If Students Took the Test Today,

Math

- TSI Test Taker: 42%
- Exempt: 58%

- College Ready - TSI: 3%
- Developmental Education: 48%
- Adult Basic Education: 49%
Anticipated Placements applying **Final** Cut Scores If Students Took the Test Today,

**Reading**

- TSI Test Taker: 34%
- Exempt: 6%

**Final Cut Scores If Students Took the Test Today,**

- College Ready - TSI: 25%
- Developmental Education: 41%
- Adult Basic Education: 34%
Anticipated Placements applying **Final** Cut Scores If Students Took the Test Today,

**Writing**

- **TSI Test Taker**
- **Exempt**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Ready - TSI</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Education</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Basic Education</td>
<td>37%</td>
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If Students Took the Test Today,
Recommended phase-in college ready cut-scores

Phase 1 – Freshmen entering higher education Fall 2013
- Mathematics - 350
- Reading - 351
- Writing – Essay Score of 5; Essay Score of 4 and Multiple Choice of 363

Phase 2 – Freshmen entering higher education Fall 2017
- Mathematics - 356
- Reading - 355
- Writing - Essay Score of 5; Essay Score of 4 and Multiple Choice of 363

Final – Freshmen entering higher education Fall 2019
- Mathematics - 369
- Reading - 359
- Writing - Essay Score of 5; Essay Score of 4 and Multiple Choice of 363
Phase 1 Cut Scores—Anticipated Placements*

**MATHEMATICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>Current Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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*All first-time in college students including both those taking and not taking (exempted from) the TSI test
Phase 1 Cut Scores—Anticipated Placements*

**READING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TSI Tested</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>61%</td>
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*All first-time in college students including both those taking and not taking (exempted from) the TSI test
Final Cut Scores—Anticipated Placements*

WRITING

Fall 2013

Current Standard

*All first-time in college students including both those taking and not taking (exempted from) the TSI test
Recommended phase-in College Ready cut-scores

**Phase 1** – Freshmen entering higher education **Fall 2013**
- ✓ Mathematics - 350
- ✓ Reading - 351
- ✓ Writing – Essay Score of 5; Essay Score of 4 and Multiple Choice of 363

**Phase 2** – Freshmen entering higher education **Fall 2017**
- ✓ Mathematics - 356
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**Final** – Freshmen entering higher education **Fall 2019**
- ✓ Mathematics - 369
- ✓ Reading - 359
- ✓ Writing - Essay Score of 5; Essay Score of 4 and Multiple Choice of 363

**Recommended Developmental Education cut-scores**

Freshmen entering higher education **Fall 2013**
- ✓ Mathematics - 336
- ✓ Reading - 342
- ✓ Writing - 350
Pathways to Persistence and Success

Policies and programming in support of the Texas Success Initiative
PRE-ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Pre-Assessment Activities (TAC §4.55)—*No students take the TSI Assessment “cold turkey”*

Activities address

- Importance of assessment
- Testing process and sample questions/feedback
- Remediation options
- Institutional and community resources
HOLISTIC ADVISING AND DIFFERENTIATED PLACEMENT

Based on individual strengths and needs

- TSI Assessment
- Diagnostic Profile
- HS GPA/Class Ranking
- Prior coursework
- Workplace experience
- Non-cognitive Factors (motivation, self-efficacy, etc.)
- Family-Life issues that impact persistence and success (work, transportation, finances, child care, etc.)
ACCELERATED OPTIONS

- Integration of Developmental Education Reading and Writing (upper-level)
- Mainstreaming/Course-pairing
- Non-Course Competency-Based Options (NCBOs)
- Modular/Emporium-style delivery
Adult Basic Education Level Skill Sets

- **College Ready**
  - Meets or exceeds statewide standard

- **Developmental Education**
  - High School Skill Levels

- **Adult Basic Education**
  - Pre-High School Skill Levels
Questions driving ABE policy and program considerations

• Who are the students testing below high school levels?

• How are they being served?
Proposed Transition Year – Institutions will continue to serve students using the current DE structures and funding model – 2013-2014

- Conduct a needs assessment – 2013-2014
  - Data analysis and identification of ABE resources locally and statewide

- Collaborate with partners on the development of an Operational Plan – 2013 forward.
  - TWC, TEA, institutions of higher education, local workforce development boards, business and industry

- Continue funding to scale programs that effectively transition ABE students into postsecondary academic and workforce programs

- Develop policy priorities moving forward
ABE: Future Considerations

Program Practices

• Vocational/Occupational Training with contextualization of basic skills
• DE and workforce training dual enrollment
• GED programming coupled with workforce training & certification

Policy Considerations

• Redefine funding of DE coursework to include ABE coursework
• Review the new role of community colleges in serving ABE students
• Increase state funding of ABE to promote transition to higher education
Pre-Assessment and Holistic Placement

Quentin Wright, Ph.D.
Executive Dean
Mountain View College (DCCCD)

Developmental Education Advisory Committee
Monthly Webinars
- Schedule, Registration, Recordings of past webinars, Documents, Submit questions: http://irt.austincc.edu/IDS/THECB/

Next Webinar: **TSI Cut-Score Presentation and Proposed Rule Changes**--Friday, April 26, 1-3 p.m.

Conference Presentations

Memorandums

College Board Regional Trainings