

# **TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) LAWS**

## **for High School Students**

The Texas Success Initiative is a state law designed to make sure that each student taking college level academic coursework is “College Ready.” A student who plans to enroll in both high school and college courses at the same time must prove “*College Readiness*” according to the guidelines in the law. The law covers three specific areas—reading, writing, and math.

High School Students are required to meet TSI obligations only in the areas required by the college level coursework they are taking. For example: a student who wants to take ENGL 1301 must only meet the reading and writing obligation – not the math obligation. You are only required to meet the math obligation if you are taking a college math course. High School students are not required to take Vernon College developmental coursework while still in high school.

### **EXEMPTIONS**

According to the law, a student may show “College Readiness” by meeting one of the exemptions listed below. There are other TSI exemptions – the exemptions listed below are the only ones that might apply to students who are still in high school.

	<b>READING &amp; WRITING</b>	<b>MATH</b>
<b>ACT</b>	Composite Score of 23 <b><i>and</i></b> an English score of 19	Composite Score of 23 <b><i>and</i></b> a Math score of 19
<b>SAT (taken March 2016 and after)</b>	Evidenced Based Reading and Writing 480	Math 530

### **THE TSI ASSESSMENT 2**

If you do not meet an exemption with the ACT or SAT exam. The only approved placement test is the Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2 or TSIA2.

The Texas Success Initiative Assessment is:

- Mandatory for all public colleges and universities in Texas
- Offered by appointment at our Century City or Vernon Campus
- Required by the State of Texas to measure your ability to read, write, and do math at a college level
- Computerized testing consisting of a multiple choice exam as well as a writing sample- you will receive your results as soon as you finish the exam
- Untimed and usually takes several hours to complete
- Will provide you a multipage print out so that you can see in what areas you did well and in what areas you did poorly
- Costs \$20 for all 2 sections or \$10 for each individual section

#### **Passing Scores for the TSI Assessment**

English - ELAR	945 with an essay of 5 OR 944 or lower with a diagnostic of 5 and an essay of 5
Math	950 or 949 or lower with a diagnostic of 6

## TSI ELIGIBILITY SCORES

Vernon College will also accept eligibility scores outlined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. These eligibility scores are only applicable when the student is still in high school. After high school graduation a student must either take the TSI test or meet an exemption standard. If a student attempts college level classwork using an eligibility score the student is not considered TSI clear until the student successfully completes the college level classwork.

### Eligibility Scores for ELAR – ENGLISH

Instrument/Exam	Minimum Score
English II STAAR EOC	4000
PSAT	460 Evidence Based Reading and Writing
PLAN	Composite of 23 with a 19 or higher in English
ACT Aspire	435

### Eligibility Scores for ELAR – MATH

Instrument/Exam	Minimum Score
Algebra I STAAR EOC	4000 + a passing grade in Algebra II* <i>*the high school is responsible for validating that the student has met the passing grade required by the high school in Algebra II</i>
PSAT	510 Math
PLAN	Composite of 23 with a 19 or higher in math
ACT Aspire	431

A high school does NOT have to utilize eligibility scores. A high school can adhere to the standard that dual credit or concurrent enrollment students must meet a TSI exemption or pass the TSI test to take dual credit or concurrent enrollment classes.

The high school or student is responsible for providing Vernon College the score reports necessary to utilize an eligibility score for registration into a college class. Students will not be able to register until applicable scores are processed by Vernon College.

### **Questions ?? Need to send scores ??**

**We are happy to help – please contact us:**

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