

The Importance of Higher Education

**BISD Celebrates
GenTX Month**



AN EARLY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BROWNSVILLE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Higher Education Options

- **Technical College:** Programs that grant certificates, certifications for careers that do not require a degree such as Certified Nurse Assistant, Air Conditioning, Auto Body, etc.
- **College:** 2 Year Associate's Degree – this is an academic degree
- **University /College:** 4 Bachelor's Year Degree – this is an academic degree
- **Graduate School:** Master's Degree – this is an academic degree.
- **Doctorial Program** – This is the highest level of achievement in most professional fields in the US. This includes doctoral titles in education, medicine, law, etc.
- **Military Enlistment:** Military training and educational opportunities to earn career certifications or a college degree. Students may choose between active duty or enlisting in the Reserves.

Standard Admission Requirements for Institutions of Higher Education

Required High School Coursework

- **Complete the High School Coursework** on the Foundation High School Plan Distinguished Level of Achievement Diploma (FHSP-DLA) or Foundation with Endorsement (FHSP-FE)
- Competitive university programs **may require additional advanced math and/or science** courses such as Pre Calculus or Calculus be taken in high school and/or an additional lab based science in addition to requirements on the Distinguished Level of Achievement Diploma

Distinguished Level of Achievement - DLA
Foundation High School Program with Endorsement – FHSP-E
High School Coursework includes 26 credits

- 4 English credits
- 4 Math (must include Algebra 2 on DLA) credits
- 4 Science credits
- 4 Social Studies credits – includes ½ Government and ½ Economics credits
- 2 Languages Other than English credits
- 1 Fine Arts credit
- 1 Physical Education credit
- 4 Endorsement credits
- ½ Health and ½ Speech credits are BISD requirements
- 1 Elective (may include additional social studies elective to meet multidisciplinary endorsement)

*** Students who meet criteria may Opt-Out to the Foundation High School Program 22 credit diploma program. Counselors must explain the benefits of graduating on the DLA and FHSP-E plans to students before the student and parent make a decision to Opt-Out.*

**** Students must meet TEA End of Course testing requirements and complete all required credit coursework to earn a Texas High School Diploma.*

Standard Admission Requirements for Institutions of Higher Education

Standardized Aptitude Tests – What are they?

- SAT – Scholastic Aptitude Test
- ACT – American College Test
- Your SAT and ACT score will include your percentile score. This is your score nationally ranked by comparison to other students who took the test.
- Example: The SAT score report indicates the student scored in the 84% percentile. This means the student scored higher than 84% of the other students who took the test that year.
- Students may qualify for a test fee waiver from the College Board and ACT in 11th and 12th grade.
- Speak to your school counselor about test waivers and registration for the SAT and the ACT

What is the meaning of standard aptitude test?

A standardized test designed to measure the ability of a person to develop skills or acquire knowledge. ... The definition of an aptitude test is a standardized assessment given to determine a person's abilities, often to determine fitness for a particular job or skill.



ACT

Welcome To MyACT

SAT vs. ACT

Colleges typically accept the SAT and ACT scores equally for admissions.
Evaluate the characteristics of each exam to determine which best fits your needs.

These tests cannot be passed or failed.

SAT (Score Range 400-1600)

- 3 test sections, Optional Essay
- 3 hours
- 154 Questions
- Free online practice for all students in Khan Academy
- 5 Reading passages
- No science section – Cross test score for analysis in science
- Calculator allowed for some test questions
- Essay focuses on analysis of an author's argument

ACT (Score Range 1-36)

- 4 test sections, Optional Essay
- 2 hours and 55 minutes
- 215 Questions
- Free online test prep for all students in ACT Academy
- 4 Reading passages
- Science section that tests critical thinking skills
- Calculator allowed for all math questions
- Essay focuses on evaluation and analysis or complex issues

SAT and ACT

Understanding Test Scores and College Admissions

The scores and percentiles below represent the average score of students who applied and were admitted.

SAT (Score Range 400-1600) **ACT (Score Range 1-36)**

Colleges and Universities	SAT Average Score 2019	Percentile	ACT Average Score 2019	Percentile
Ivy League Schools	1570	99 th +	35	99 th +
Competitive Texas Universities	1275 -1310	84 th -87 th	30	93 rd
Regional State Universities	1075	56 th	20	53 rd
Open Enrollment Colleges and Institutions <i>Typically do not require SAT or ACT scores for admissions</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: ACT and College Board

Percentile scores will vary every year depending on national results and university applications/admissions

Standard Admission Requirements for

Institutions of Higher Education

College Readiness Standards

- **TSIA2 test** -The Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2) is a series of placement tests in the content areas of **reading, writing, and math** for students enrolling in Texas public colleges and universities.
- The tests help Texas college and universities determine whether you're ready for college-level courses.
- Students must pass the sections of the TSIA2 to take college level courses in English, Science, Math and History for high school dual enrollment courses or in college.
- Before you can register to take TSIA2, you must participate in a mandatory Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA).
- The TSIA2 is an online test and is not timed.
- In most cases, the TSIA2 test provides immediate results upon completion.
- Students with disabilities may submit a request for testing accommodations at their home campus.

Topics Covered in the TSIA2 mandatory Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA)

- Importance of TSIA2 in your academic career and why doing well matters
- Content of TSIA2, including sample test questions, key test preparation tools, and tips to get you ready for test day
- Information about college readiness, developmental education courses, and co-requisite options
- Information about available campus and community resources, such as online tools and free workshops, that will help you prepare for TSIA2 and succeed as a college student

Standard Admission Requirements for

Institutions of Higher Education

College Readiness Standards

TSIA2 Exemptions:

- Having an exemption means that you can enroll in any freshman-level college course in a specific area without having to take TSIA2 or complete a prerequisite. Not all entering students need to take TSIA2. You may be exempt if you:
- Have met the minimum college readiness standard on the SAT, ACT , or the English III/Algebra II STAAR End-of-Course high school tests;
- Have successfully completed a high school College Preparatory Course (restrictions may apply)
- Have successfully completed college-level course(s);
- Have enrolled in a Level-One certificate program (fewer than 43 semester credit hours);
- Aren't seeking a degree; or
- Have been, or currently are, in the military.

TSIA2 Exemption			
Exempt in:	Math	Reading	Writing
ACT	23 Composite 19 in Math	23 Composite 19 in Math	23 Composite 19 in English
SAT Administered after March 2016	530 Math	430 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	480 in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Math + Critical Reading score of 1070 is required to be exempt in one or more areas. If a student does not meet the 1070 combined minimum, then the SAT scores cannot be used for TSI exemption.• If your SAT Critical Reading score was 500+ and your combined Math + Critical Reading score was 1070+, you are exempt from the reading and writing areas.• If your SAT Math score was 500+ and your combined Math + Critical Reading was 1070+, you are exempt from the math area.• SAT score exemptions are good for five years.• Mixing or combining scores from the SAT administered prior to March 2016 and the SAT administered on or after March 5, 2016, is not allowed.			

Standard Admission Requirements for

Institutions of Higher Education

College Readiness Standards

What Is The Passing Score For The TSIA2 Test?

- Mathematics: A College Readiness Classification (CRC) score of at least 950; or a CRC score below 950 and a Diagnostic level of 6.
- English Language Arts Reading: A College Readiness Classification (CRC) score of at least 945 and an essay score of at least 5; or a CRC score below 945 and a Diagnostic level of 5 or 6 and an essay score of at least 5.

Did you Know?

- Each BISD high school and middle school allows BISD students to take the TSIA2 test at no cost.
- Students may take sections of the test as early as 8th grade.
- Students who wish to re-take a section of the TSIA2 must complete 8 hours of test review before they can register to re-take the test.
- TSIA2 practice test and reviews are available:
<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/prepare-for-accuplacer/tsia-texas-success-initiative-assessment>
- A TSIA2 Study App is available

ACCUPLACER

Standard Admission Requirements for

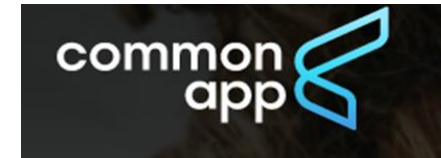
Institutions of Higher Education

Other Admissions Requirements include:

- **College application:** Apply Texas or Common Application
- **College Essays** are required on the majority of applications
- A High School **Transcript**
- **Portfolios and/or Auditions** when applicable
- **Interviews** when applicable
- **Applications must be submitted by the College/University Deadlines.**



Explore. Apply. Repeat.



ACCUPLACER

Standard Admission Requirements for Institutions of Higher Education

Brownsville ISD calculates a GPA on a 4.0 weighted scale. That means that grades earned in courses taken in Honors, Dual Enrollment, AP and Project Lead the Way earn more points toward calculating a GPA.

*Please refer to the District's Course Listing Guide for more information on ranking and course grade weight rules at www.bisd.us

Grade Point Average (GPA)

- The grade point average (GPA) is an average of a student's grades during high school.
- College and universities review the high school transcript to review the courses taken, the program of rigor and grades.
- Grades may determine if you earn a university scholarship.
- Grades earned in certain middle school courses will be calculated in the high school grade point average.
- Dual enrollment courses are calculated in the high school GPA and college GPA.
- Colleges may view high school grades as a predictor of how successful a student will be in college.
- While not all courses taken in high school will be calculated in the GPA, all courses taken will be noted on the high school transcript*.

Automatic College Admission

*The University of Texas has determined that it will automatically admit all eligible summer/fall 2023 and spring 2024 freshman applicants who rank within the **top 6%** of their high school graduating classes, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review.

Senate Bill 175

A student is eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university as an undergraduate student if the student earned a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high school graduating class or in the percentage of qualified applicants that are anticipated to be offered admission to the University of Texas at Austin*, and the applicant:

- (1) Successfully completed the requirements for the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP);
- (2) Earned the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program; or
- (3) Satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT

High school rank for students seeking automatic admission to a general academic teaching institution is determined and reported as follows.

- Class rank must be based on the student's rank at the end of the 11th grade, middle of the 12th grade, or at high school graduation, whichever is most recent at the application deadline.
- The top 10 percent of a high school class cannot contain more than 10 percent of the total class size.
- The student's rank must be reported by the student's high school or school district as a specific number out of a specific number total class size.
- Class rank shall be determined by the school or school district from which the student graduated or is expected to graduate

Automatic College Admission

To qualify for automatic admission an application must:

- Submit an application before the deadline established by the Texas college or university to which the student seeks admission; and
- Provide a high school transcript or diploma that indicates whether the student has satisfied or is on schedule to satisfy the requirements of the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program or the portion of the requirements of those programs that was available to the student.
- Texas colleges and universities are required to admit an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student if the applicant is the child of a public servant who was killed or sustained a fatal injury in the line of duty and meets the minimum requirements, if any, established by the governing board of the college or university for high school or prior college- level grade point average and performance on standardized tests.



Financial Aid Availability and Requirements

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

To apply for student financial aid, a student must complete the following steps:

- Apply for an FSA ID. A **FSA ID** is required to complete a FAFSA. This is required to apply online for a student and parent/legal guardian.
- Again, remember in completing a FAFSA you will need a FSA ID (social security# required to apply) for both student and one parent as this ID serves as the electronic signature on FAFSA form @www.fsaaid.ed.gov
- If your parent does not have a social security number, you will need to print out the signature page & mail it
- Students can apply for financial aid starting **October 1st** utilizing the prior year income tax return (Process is called Prior-Prior).
- This process allows students and their families to fill out the FAFSA form **earlier** than ever before in hopes to have their financial aid packages before making college decisions.

Financial Aid Availability and Requirements

To complete the financial aid form you must remember to...

- Have a social security number, driver's license number (if any) W-2 Forms and Income Tax Return for Parents and Students (if applicable), untaxed income records if any on hand.
- Apply after October 1st online @ www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Use the IRS Retrieval Tool (downloads IRS information onto the FAFSA)
- Submit FAFSA with student and parent signatures(FSA ID is electronic signature).
- Print the signature page if parents do not have social security number and mail the document.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Students may be selected by the Department of Education for verification. If you are selected, the college/university financial aid offices will notify you and request certain information.

If IRS Retrieval Tool(within FAFSA) is used, the financial aid offices will be able to see that the IRS provided the information from the tax return onto the FAFSA.


Students may also have to complete verification forms and/or submit an IRS Transcript.
The verification process must be completed to access financial aid.

Financial Aid Availability and Requirements



Estimated Family Contribution
“EFC”

What does “EFC” mean?

- After you click submit on FAFSA online form a **confirmation sheet** will appear that will show an **EFC(Expected Family Contribution)** or the portion your parent/guardian will be expected to contribute towards college expenses as per the Department of Education).
 - Many BISD students will have a **“Zero” EFC** or a low number. This is a good thing in financial aid for it shows you have need and this information is utilized by the financial aid office to determine aid (grants, scholarships, loans, work study) offered.
- 

Financial Aid Availability and Requirements

Financial Aid Award Letters

- If a student has a clear admissions status and financial aid verification is complete, the student will be sent a financial aid award to help with the unmet financial need. The awards may include the following:
- **Grants**- federal, state or university money awarded that does not need to be repaid. It is typically given to students who qualify based on income.
- **Scholarships**- awarded to students for academic or athletic merit which does not need to be repaid.
- **Student and/or Parent Loans**- Money that has to be repaid
- **Work-Study**- Student employment on campus

The Pell Grant for 2022-2023 school year is \$6,895.

The Texas Grant is an academic and need based award. It is valued at \$5,000 and is renewable if the student meets ongoing criteria for the award.

The Priority Deadline to apply for Financial Aid to receive the maximum benefit is January 15th.

Financial Aid Availability and Requirements

The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)

SB1528/HB1403

Allows for students that are DACA or who do not have a Social Security # to apply for state financial funds by completing a TASFA and meet the following criteria:

- Have resided in Texas at least 3 years
- Graduate from a Texas public/private high school or receive a GED
- Provide an affidavit to each college/university that the student applies to



Financial Aid Availability and Requirements

Seniors and Graduating Juniors should check with their counselor for a “Campus Scholarship Listing” or check their school website.

Visit your school campus “GO CENTER” to get scholarship information and assistance with the college planning process.

Below are examples of types of scholarships:

- **STATE-** Valedictorian Waiver
- **INSTITUTIONAL-** Texas A & M Regents, UTRGV Scholars, UT Austin Presidential Scholars, etc.
- **DEPARTMENTAL-** Business, Engineering, etc.
- **PRIVATE-** Private donors
- **FOUNDATION-** Minnie Stevens Piper, Dell
- **MINORITY-** HSF, Gates. etc.
- **LOCAL-** BISD Superintendent’s Golf Scholarship, Zonta, Pan American RT, etc.
- **MILITARY-** Academies and ROTC



This Photo by Unknown Author is
licensed under CC BY-ND

Brownsville ISD Supports YOU!

- BISD offers up to 60 FREE college credit hours in dual enrollment.
- Students may earn an Associate's Degree and a High School Diploma at the same time.
- Students can earn industry-based certifications through Career & Technology (CTE) Programs.
- Each high school has a college access or Go Center available Monday-Friday where students and parents can access free college planning services.
- TSIA2 testing is available at all high schools at no cost to the student.
- Career Placement Officer Counselors are available at campuses to provide students with an orientation on career planning and CTE Endorsement Programs of Study
- Ask your school counselor for these and other opportunities available to you.



AN EARLY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BROWNSVILLE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

THANK YOU!



Speak with your school counselor regarding the college and career planning opportunities in BISD.

Sources:

- Texas Education Agency
- College Board
- ACT
- Texas OnCourse
- Financial Aid Availability and Requirements Source:
- BISD Gear UP Counselor, P. Janis



November 2, 2021