

LA Vega High School

TSIA 2 Policies & Procedures

WHAT IS THE TSIA2?
Pre-Assessment Activity
Testing Schedule
Retesting
Exemptions
Incentives
Accommodations

What is the TSIA2?

The Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA or TSIA2) is the state-mandated placement test (Texas Education Code §51.3062) that Texas public institutions must use to determine a student's readiness for college-level courses. The purpose of the TSIA test is to provide you with useful information about your academic skills in math, reading, and writing. You cannot "pass" or "fail" the placement tests, but it is very important that you do your very best on these tests so that you will have an accurate measure of your academic skills. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisors to determine your course selection and where you will be most successful.

In addition, students are required to complete a TSI Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) before completing the TSIA2 exam.

The TSIA is composed of an English Language Arts Reading (ELAR), Writing, and Mathematics section. On a student's first attempt, he or she is required to attempt the ELAR and Writing Section.

TSIA2 Platform Features

The TSIA2 testing platform includes several built-in features often used for testing accommodations that are available to all students and do not require prior approval:

- Untimed – there is no minimum/maximum time allotted for the mathematics, ELAR/essay sections of the TSIA2, including the Diagnostics (if applicable). However, students should be aware of the hours of operation at the testing center or school where they are taking the test.

- Accessibility Wizard – the accessibility Wizard allows students to change the appearance of the testing screens to include text size, color scheme, line spacing, and background and text color.
- Save and Finish Later – students may take a break during the test by selecting the “save and finish later” option. Students selecting this option must return to complete the test within 14 calendar days. This option is not available for the essay section, which must be started and completed within the same testing session.
- Calculators – the TSIA2 has three (3) built-in calculator options available for appropriate mathematics test questions: basic 4-function, square root, and graphing. Students are encouraged to view the calculator tutorial in the [Student Portal](#) prior to testing to understand how to use this tool during testing.
- Highlighter – the TSIA2 has a tool available for highlighting purposes in any narratives, including reading passages, of the TSIA2 multiple choice sections and the prompts of the essay. Students are encouraged to view the highlighter tutorial in the [Student Portal](#) prior to testing in order to understand how to use this tool during testing.

Pre-Assessment Activity

The TSIA2 Pre-Assessment will discuss the content and importance of the TSI Assessment, exemptions, provide sample questions, testing details and support, and more. McLennan Community College is required by Rule §4.55.b of the Texas Administration Code to document your participation in the TSIA2 Pre- Assessment prior to taking the TSIA2 exam.

Retesting

College Board’s Policy states the following “Although institutions are able to set their own retest policies, the College Board recommends that a student who does not achieve a placement score on the initial test be given a chance to retest in two weeks (14 days) from their initial test date. Before the retest date, advise the students to spend concentrated time on each test subject. It is recommended that students allow for at least one week of practice for each test subject. In addition to the available practice materials, encourage students to review the test descriptions found on the ACCUPLACER website to further enhance their understanding of what to expect on the test. A student who does not achieve the desired course placement score after the second test may test for the third time three months (90 days) after their first retest. This is because students who continually fail to meet an institution’s placement requirements should be given more time to focus on improving their score by identifying possible areas for improvement. A student who does not achieve the desired course placement score after the

third test may retest four weeks (30 days) from the third test. This applies to subsequent retests”.

La Vega high school permits students two attempts per section of the TSIA, each school year. After students have reached their maximum amount of attempts, a fee of \$10.00 per section is required. If students are unable to pay the fee of \$10.00, they have the option to attend a Saturday TSIA Boot Camp in place of the required fee.

Before attempting a retest, students are required to complete mandatory practice on MasteryPrep.

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*;
- 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.

If you think you may be exempt, contact an adviser or counselor at your institution or high school.

Accommodations

La Vega High School students taking the TSIA should contact their counselor to determine appropriate accommodations. The following formats are available for students with documented disabilities:

- TSIA2 COMPANION standard and large print versions, as well as administrator's reader scripts, are available to print on demand via the COPPS section in the platform. TSIA2

COMPANION Braille, audio CD, and the essay versions are available for purchase through the standard ordering process.

- Please note the TSIA2 COMPANION versions are not computer adaptive and include 50% more test questions to ensure comparable reliability and validity with the computer adaptive version. Therefore, it is recommended that the TSIA2 COMPANION version be used as a last option.

- Students with appropriate permissions using the TSIA2 COMPANION mathematics version can use only a basic/square root hand-held calculator. Proctors for this test must ensure the calculator model meets this requirement.

*If requested, counselors should be prepared to provide appropriate documentation on behalf of the student to staff at the institution's Disabilities Support Services Office (DSSO, or similar office). Because of differing laws governing K12 and higher education, counselors should understand that some accommodations provided in the student's IEP or other K12 documents may not be appropriate for the TSIA2 testing scenario. DSSO staff will verify appropriate individual accommodations on a case-by-case basis, as needed.

Incentives

What are the requirements for students to have out periods? In the past we have held to the passing of all TSI and EOC components. There will be exceptions (work program) but what justifies this being allowed, what criteria will we use? We must be consistent and fair.