

Texas First Early High School Completion Program

Senate Bill 1888, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, added Texas Education Code §28.0253, which establishes the Texas First Early High School Completion Program to allow public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school.

The purpose of the Texas First Early High School Completion Program, in conjunction with the Texas First Scholarship Program, is to promote efficiency in the state public education system and incentivize the enrollment of high-performing students at eligible institutions within the state of Texas.

Upon a student's initial enrollment in high school, Newman International Academy will provide the student and the student's parent or guardian information regarding the requirements to earn a high school diploma under the Newman International Academy program as well as the Texas First Scholarship Program.

Requirements:

A student is entitled to early high school graduation under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program if the student meets the criteria established below:

(1) The student has met the following minimum criteria at the time of graduation:

(A) Earned at least twenty-two (22) high school credits by any permissible method, including credit by examination.

(B) Earned a final Grade Point Average equivalent to 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

(C) Earned an overall scaled score in at least the 80th percentile on one or more of the following assessments: ACT, SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, TSIA/TSIA2, or GED, *or* alternatively, has a grade point average in the top ten percent of the student's current class during the current or semester prior to the counselor's or administrator's verification under subsection (b) of a student's eligibility for early graduation under the Program; and

(D) Completed the requirement for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness End-of-Course (STAAR EOC) examinations for English I or II, Algebra I, and Biology by one of the following methods:

(i) If the student has taken the STAAR EOC for English I or II, Algebra I, and Biology, the student has achieved a satisfactory level of performance as defined by the Commissioner of Education; or

(ii) If the student has not taken the required STAAR EOC assessment for English I or II, Algebra I, or Biology, the student has satisfied the STAAR EOC requirement by achieving a passing score on a substitute assessment for that subject area authorized under Title 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter DD, §101.4002(b).

And

(2) The student has demonstrated the student's mastery of each subject area of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and a language other than English through assessments or other means eligible institutions commonly use to place students in courses that may be credited toward degree program requirements. A student may demonstrate mastery of each subject area, as applicable, by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

(A) Earning a score on the STAAR EOC assessment that meets the college readiness standards set out in Title 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, §4.54;

(B) Credit earned in a course in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education in which the student received at least a C; or

(C) Meeting the standards on the assessments set out in Figure 1.

Figure: 19 TAC §21.52(a)(2)(C)

TEXAS FIRST EARLY HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM
Subject Area Assessments and Benchmarks

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT	ENGLISH SUBJECT AREA	MS	MATH SUBJECT AREA	MS	SCIENCE SUBJECT AREA Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or other science	MS	SOCIAL STUDIES SUBJECT AREA History, Government, Economics, Psychology, or other social studies	MS	LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SUBJECT AREA World language or Computer Science	MS
SAT	EBRW	480	Math	530	SAT ST	700	SAT ST	690	SAT ST	730
ACT	English	18	Math	22	Science	23	Reading	22	--	--
PSAT/NMSQT	EBRW	460	Math	510	--	--	--	--	--	--
ACT - Plan	English	19	Math	19	Science	20	Reading	18	--	--
AP	English	3	Math	3	AP ST	3	AP ST	3	AP ST	3
CLEP	English	50	Math	50	CLEP ST	50	CLEP ST	50	CLEP ST	50
IB	Language/Literature	4	Math	4	Sciences ST	4	Individuals and Societies ST	4	Language Acquisition ST	4
TSIA	Reading	351 +4E	Math	450	--	--	--	--	--	--
TSIA2	ELAR	945 ± 5E	Math	950	--	--	--	--	--	--
GED	English	165	Math	165	Science	165	Social Studies	165	--	--

Gray Column indicates minimum score (MS)

ST = Subject Test
 E= Essay

A counselor or administrator must verify that the student meets the requirements in subsections (a)(1) and (2) of this section, prior to issuing a diploma to the student under this Program. A student is responsible for providing the official copy of the assessment results to their counselor or administrator to verify these requirements.

Newman International Academy will require the minimum number of assessments to demonstrate that the student meets the criteria established in subsections (a)(1) and (2) of this section and may not require a student to take any other STAAR End-of-Course assessment to graduate under the Program, except as required by this section.