

HB 5: Other Frequently Asked Questions

College Preparatory Courses

1. Are high schools required to offer a college prep course?

Under Section 28.014 of the Texas Education Code, each school district is required to partner with at least one institution of higher education to develop and provide college preparatory courses in English language arts and mathematics. However, each high school within the school district is not required to offer these courses.

2. Are certain students required to enroll in college prep courses?

No. School districts are required to provide notice to each student who meets eligibility criteria for a college preparatory course and the student's parent or guardian regarding the benefits of enrolling in the course. However, students are not required to enroll in college preparatory courses that are required in statute.

3. Is a student required to perform on coursework, a college entrance examination, or the TSI to determine that the student is not ready to perform entry level college coursework.

4. If a district chooses to use TSI to determine college readiness and placement in a college prep course, must a district pay for the TSI for students?

The course required under TEC, §28.014 must be availab

required only for the purpose of awarding dual credit, or whether there is no test at all is part of the flexibility HB5 provided to each school district in working with an institution of higher education.

6. If a district chooses to use TSI to determine successful completion of a college prep course, must a district pay for the TSI for students?

Yes. If the district chooses to use only the TSI to determine successful completion of the course, it cannot require payment for the TSI. If other standards involving grades or other exams are used, and TSI is not required for completion of the course, the district is not required to administer or pay for the TSI.

7. What end-of-course assessment instrument would indicate that a student does not meet college readiness standards for purposes of Texas Education Code, §28.014?

There is no longer a state assessment that would meet this purpose. The local development process may decide to use an assessment as part of the course, but is not required to do so.

8. Can high schools offer college prep course to students who are not in the 12th grade?

There is not a specific requirement that a student must be in 12th grade to take a college preparatory course. However, a student may not earn credit for the college preparatory math course until after the student has completed the three mathematics credit requirements for the Foundation High School Program.

9. Can a student who remains on the current Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) earn credit for a college preparatory course?

No. Administrative rules do not allow for these courses to satisfy credit requirements for students on the RHSP or DAP. However, a student on the Foundation High School Program who successfully completes a college preparatory course may use the credit earned to satisfy an advanced mathematics credit or an advanced English credit.

10. What is the relationship between the college preparatory courses referenced in Texas Education Code, §28.014 and §39.025(b-2)?

Texas Education Code, subsection 39.025(b-2) does not apply to a course developed under section 28.014. While both statutes use the term "college preparatory course," they are different enactments

and represent different local program options. There is currently no assessment available for a course

