Webinar Participant Questions and Answers: Understanding the TSIA2

Recorded on October 13, 2020

Answers courtesy of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

1. **When will the TSIA2 blueprint be released?**

This response is a correction to information shared during the webinar. The anticipated release date for the TSIA2 blueprint document is April 2021. This document cannot be produced until after launch. However, the TSIA2 test specifications document that provides detail on the structure and content of the TSIA2 will be made available on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's webpage in November 2020.

2. **Is there a specific tutoring resource that can be used to prepare for this?**

We recommend students download the TSIA2 Study App (December 2020) in the Student Portal at https://www.accuplacer.org/. Additionally, the TSIA2 learning resources site (January 2021) will provide access to instructional and practice materials specifically related to the content areas of the TSIA2.

3. **During the beta testing period, can high school instructors use this for staff development?**

No. Participation in the TSIA2 beta testing opportunity (Oct. 1–Nov. 15) is limited to Texas public college and university faculty that primarily teach developmental education and TSI-liable (reading and/or writing or math-intensive) entry college-level courses.

4. **When will access to the new blueprint be given so that students can prepare for the exam prior to January 11, 2021?**

See response to Q1 and Q2.

5. **Can you repeat the house bill for IHE?**

House Bill 2223 (HB2223), 85th Legislative Session.

6. **When will the diagnostic test be available?**

The revised launch date for the TSIA2 is January 11, 2021.

7. Any updates on dictionary use for ESL students?

No. Dictionaries are not permitted for use with the TSIA/TSIA2. ESL students should be provided necessary language interventions prior to taking the TSIA2.

8. Which portal can you use to check TSI scores?

Students can access their scores through the Student Portal at https://www.accuplacer.org/.

9. I was told that students could also use their cell phone numbers. Is that true?

See Q8.

10. Have the results of the 6700 automated/AI testers already been added to the score information in the database?

Yes.

11. If a student passed the reading and essay portion of the TSIA but did not pass the math portion, will the TSIA Reading and Essay be honored?

Yes, TSIA/TSIA2 scores are valid for five years from the date of testing. As a reminder, the current reading and writing sections have been integrated into one section for the TSIA2, English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR). For the purpose of demonstrating college readiness, students who have satisfied the TSI requirement for only reading or writing prior to the launch of the TSIA2 will take the ELAR section of the TSIA2, as the current stand-alone sections will no longer be available.

12. Can teachers have access to these materials as well? Are there other resources for teachers?

Yes, faculty will have access to the TSIA2 learning resources site. More information will be shared once the site becomes available in January 2021.

13. How do the students access the learning resources? Will it be through the student portal?

Yes, a link to the TSIA2 learning resources site will be available through the student portal. Additionally, students completing a diagnostic test will be provided with a Learning Locator Code (LLC) on their score report. The LLC provides access to a custom

set of materials in the TSIA2 learning resources site specific to the student's performance on the diagnostic test.

14. Is this module a four-hour course, and is it required?

Yes, the training requirement is applicable to each institution that currently administers the TSIA or plans to administer the TSIA2. At least one person per institution designated with Institution Administrator access to the TSIA platform is required to attend all four trainings.

15. Will there be any professional development opportunities available for teachers who want to use the instructional materials to maximize the resources?

Yes, the THECB will host a webinar (TBA) on the features of the TSIA2 learning resources site.

16. How can teachers get access to these resources?

See Q12.

17. When will these resources become available?

See Q12.

18. I heard that there will be a window of time during which adults (teachers, for example) can take the test. When and how?

See Q3.

19. How about dictionaries? Can students use an actual dictionary?

See Q7.

20. If a student took and passed the writing section of the original TSIA, will they be required to take and pass the ELAR portion of the TSIA2? Will their writing score not be valid as a single score?

See Q11.

21. How will it work for students who passed the TSI writing portion but not the TSI reading portion? Will their writing scores remain valid, or do they have to take the ELAR portion of the TSIA2 for it to replace those previous scores?

See Q11.

22. Are session four trainings available? I was registered and then it was cancelled, and none were listed the last time I checked.

Yes, however, only three of the four required trainings are currently available. The fourth training will be made available via a recording in November 2020. See Q25 for instructions on accessing the trainings.

23. How do we access these trainings?

TSIA2 trainings can be accessed at https://collegeboard.zoom.us/calendar/list?SFMC_cid=EM356047-&rid=170066238. Search for "TSIA2" to access all available trainings.

24. What are the training dates?

See Q23.

25. Does this change have any implications for how schools qualify for HB3 outcome bonuses?

This question will be submitted to TEA.

26. What do they need to score on the diagnostic test to be considered CRC?

For math, the TSIA2 proposed benchmarks indicate a student would need to score a diagnostic level of six to be considered college ready. As a reminder, the proposed benchmarks for the TSIA2 are subject to approval by the THECB during their October 22, 2020 meeting.

27. Where can we go and access the trainings if we missed a session?

See Q23.

28. Sorry, I'm a little confused (and new). For the new TSIA2 scores, are math, reading, and writing scores now grouped together? Did I understand that correctly?

No. Currently, the TSIA has three sections: reading, writing, and math. The TSIA2 has two sections, "English Language Arts and Reading" and math. Each section is scored independently.

29. Now that the TSIA2 does not have a separate reading and writing score, will the students who pass the reading only on the TSIA and not the writing portion be required to take the entire ELAR section of the TSIA2?

See Q11.

30. Will students receive more specific information about incorrect answers on the CRC and diagnostic test?

No. However, students who complete a diagnostic test will receive a diagnostic profile that provides general information regarding strengths and weaknesses.

31. Will the ISR specifically state whether a student is CRC, or does the person reading the score report need to determine if a child is CRC?

The final design of the TSIA2 score report has not been finalized.

32. Is there a preferred online platform that you recommend we use to collect testing fees from students?

Decisions regarding platforms to collect testing fees are locally determined by each institution (if applicable).

33. Do you use your local community college's preassessment, or do you have your own?

The THECB will continue to support a free statewide preassessment activity (currently provided though Querium) for the TSIA2. For more information on the state-supported preassessment activity, visit www.querium.com.