

AN ACT

relating to the consideration of college entrance examinations for admission to certain public institutions of higher education and a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding those examinations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 51.803(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Subject to Subsection (a-1), each general academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant graduated with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and:

(1) the applicant:

(A) graduated from a public or private high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization or from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense; or

(B) completed a nontraditional secondary education as defined by Section 51.9241;

(2) the applicant:

(A) successfully completed:

1 (i) at a public high school, the curriculum
2 requirements established under Section 28.025 for the
3 distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school
4 program; or

5 (ii) at a high school to which Section
6 28.025 does not apply, a curriculum that is equivalent in content
7 and rigor to the distinguished level of achievement under the
8 foundation high school program; or

9 (B) achieved a score set by the Texas Higher
10 Education Coordinating Board on a college entrance examination
11 designated by coordinating board rule [~~satisfied ACT's College~~
12 ~~Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment applicable to the~~
13 ~~applicant or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500~~
14 ~~out of 2,400 or the equivalent~~]; and

15 (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school
16 operated by the United States Department of Defense, the applicant
17 is a Texas resident under Section 54.052 or is entitled to pay
18 tuition fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section
19 54.241(d) for the term or semester to which admitted.

20 SECTION 2. Section 51.805(a), Education Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (a) A graduating student who does not qualify for admission
23 under Section 51.803 or 51.804 may apply to any general academic
24 teaching institution if the student:

25 (1) successfully completed:

26 (A) at a public high school, the curriculum
27 requirements established under Section 28.025 for the foundation

high school program; or

(B) at a high school to which Section 28.025 does not apply, a curriculum that is equivalent in content and rigor to the foundation high school program; or

(2) achieved a score set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on a college entrance examination designated by coordinating board rule ~~[satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the equivalent]~~.

SECTION 3. Subchapter U, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.8031 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.8031. STUDY ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION SCORES.

(a) In this section, "coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(b) The coordinating board shall conduct a study on college entrance examinations to determine which examinations, and the requisite score for each examination, should be used as a criterion for admission to a general academic teaching institution.

(c) The study must:

(1) identify each college entrance examination with sufficient rigor and reliability to be used as a criterion for admission to a general academic teaching institution; and

(2) determine the score for each examination identified under Subdivision (1) that demonstrates adequate performance for purposes of admission to a general academic teaching institution.

1 (d) Not later than August 1, 2026, the coordinating board
2 shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker
3 of the house of representatives, and the chair of each standing
4 legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
5 education a report on the results of the study and any
6 recommendations for legislative or other action.

7 (e) This section expires September 1, 2027.

8 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
9 51.803(a) and 51.805(a), Education Code, apply beginning with
10 admissions to a general academic teaching institution for the 2028
11 fall semester. Admissions to a general academic teaching
12 institution for a term or semester before the 2028 fall semester are
13 governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date
14 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
15 purpose.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1241 passed the Senate on May 6, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 22, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 24, Nays 7.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1241 passed the House, with amendment, on May 16, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 77, Nays 44, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor