

Empowered for Success

A College and Career Newsletter for the Gulf Coast Issue 35 | April 2013

In this issue:

- [New Texas Success Initiative Approval and Implementation](#)
- [THECB 3rd Annual Almanac](#)
- [Online Resources: Events](#)
- [Professional Development Calendar](#)



New Texas Success Initiative Approval and Implementation

In 2011, the 82nd Texas Legislature approved the [Texas Education Code, Section 51.3062\(f\)](#), which grants the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#) (THECB) the authority to develop a single streamlined standard for college and career readiness among Texas students.

Texas currently has four testing methods to determine if students meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative statute: THEA, Compass, ASSET and Accuplacer. It has been questioned whether these testing methods sufficiently align with the [College and Career Readiness Standards](#) required for students to know since 2008. Following a study addressing these concerns, it was discovered that the performance expectations were not fully being met-leading to a call to revise the current standardized testing. A copy of the study results can be found [here](#).

In March 2013, the [Committee on Academic and Workforce Success](#) approved a single TSI cut-score to determine the following components: students' college readiness standing, student placement within college courses and provision of developmental instruction as needed. The new TSI Assessment, headed with a no-cost contract by the College Board, has been developed and reviewed by 72 Texas faculty members, including secondary, postsecondary and adult education experts.

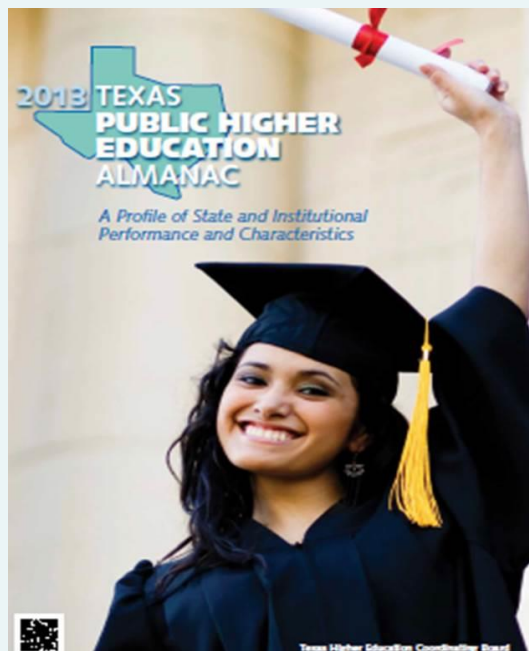
The TSI Assessment will be implemented starting on the first day of the 2013-2014 school year, bringing an end to the previous college entrance exams. Students who have completed the SAT or

ACT will be exempted from the requirement from taking the new TSI Assessment. The new TSI Assessment [item description](#) is available, as well as the [Coordinating Board's recorded meeting](#).

THECB 3rd Annual Almanac

In 2004, at the request of Governor Rick Perry, the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#) Board (THECB) created an online [Higher Education Accountability System](#) in an effort to track the progress of the [Closing the Gaps by 2015](#) initiative (2000). The Accountability System tracks Texas college and university progress in participation, success, excellence and research -- four arenas focus set forth by the initiative. The Accountability System also includes comparative data among Texas higher education institutions and those across the nation.

Now, the THECB has released its third annual edition of the [Texas Higher Education Almanac](#). The Almanac contains key information from the Accountability System and is presented in a transparent, easy to understand way. The Almanac is available online for free, and can be viewed by policymakers, educators, administrators and the entire public.



"The 2013 Almanac represents a sustained investment in transparency and accountability, while reinforcing the value of higher education to Texas taxpayers, including students and their families," said THECB Chairman Fred W. Heldenfels IV. "The Almanac has proven to be an invaluable tool for helping higher education leaders and policymakers better assess what Texas is doing well in higher education, and where we must improve."

The 2013 edition of the Almanac also has a new addition to it: tracking the progress of students starting in the 8th grade. The Almanac contains information that tracks the education journey from 8th grade through six years of postsecondary education. The latest statistics and data, such as, currently 19 out of every 100 8th graders have graduated with a degree or professional certificate, can be viewed in the Almanac.

Read more about the [THECB 3rd Annual Almanac](#) or directly view the Almanac [here](#).

Online Resources: Events

ESC Calendars, Spotlight Events, and Professional Development Meetings

Stay up-to-date on the latest college and career readiness events going on in the state of Texas!

The Texas College and Career Readiness website features events that range from Professional Development seminars, district meetings, Spotlight Activities and collaborative group meetings that help establish organization and implementation of the College and Career Readiness Standards in your classroom.



STEM Education Celebration Week May 6 - 12

Held at the George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, Texas

Events Include:

- Booths containing STEM resources for teachers and educators
- Speakers from Shell, Chevron, NASA, Dow STEM Education Thought Leadership Panel, and BASF
- Speakers from All Kids Alliance and the University of Houston
- Student led science and robotics demos

Register online:

<http://www.stemtx.org/events/celebration-of-stem-education-week-2/>

For more information regarding STEM information, visit:

www.stemtx.org

Spotlight Activities such as STEM Education Celebration Week can be found on the [Spotlight Events and Activities section](#) of the TXCCRN website! Events also are organized by [ESC region](#) and a [statewide calendar](#).

Plan your month by visiting the [Events](#) section of the [TXCCRN website](#) and registering for the events that fit your needs!

Contact the Texas College and Career Readiness Network to submit an event that promotes college readiness in Texas! It will be featured in the TXCCRN calendar for educators across Texas to see!

Contact [Amy Williams](#) with the [Events Submission Form](#) completed and attached.

Professional Development Calendar

Region 4

May 8

A Framework for Increasing Rigor in the Classroom (TOT)

All Grades
All Subjects
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

May 22

Instructional TEKS – Based Coaching and Professional Development

All Grades
Social Studies
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Region 5

May 22

Achieve College Success– Professional Development

Grade 9 – 12
All Subjects
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

May 29

New Math TEKS Training for Leaders

Grades K – 8
Math
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Region 6

May 21

Science Formative Assessment

All Grades
Science
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

May 21–24

Teacher WOW! Academy

All Grades
All Subjects
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Empowered for Success is a monthly newsletter focused on college and career readiness in the Gulf Coast region.

The newsletter is made possible by a University of Houston grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Editor

Amy Williams, aewilliams10@uh.edu

Contributing Editors

Jo Anne Davis–Jones, jadavis-jones@central.uh.edu

Chris Cheatham, ccheatham@uh.edu

Associate Vice President at University of Houston Agnes DeFranco,
adefranco@uh.edu

www.thecb.tx.state.us

www.txccrn.uh.edu

STAY CONNECTED

