

SB149 – INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION COMMITTEE

updates for 2017

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Region 12
Education Service Center
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What are Individual Graduation Committees?

- Enacted in 2015, Senate Bill 149 established the ability for a school district to grant a student a diploma when testing is the only obstacle.
- This bill expires on September 1, 2017. So all committees must have made their decisions and students graduated before this date.

Note – TSI as a substitute assessment in SB149

- Section 4 (a-3) states that “A student, who after retaking an end-of-course assessment instrument for Algebra I or English II, has failed to perform satisfactorily as required by Subsection (a), but who receives a score of proficient on the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) diagnostic assessment for the corresponding subject for which the student failed to perform satisfactorily the requirement concerning the Algebra I or English II end-of-course assessment, as applicable.”
- Translation: *Students who have taken retests at least once in Algebra I or English II, may use TSI as a substitute assessment if they achieve “college ready” on the corresponding pieces.*
- Score:
 - Algebra I = TSI Math 350+
 - English II = Reading 351+ AND Writing Multiple choice 363+ with Essay 4 OR Essay 5
- This expires September 1, 2017

REQUIREMENTS

Who? What? When?

So it all boils down to this...

- Enrolled as an 11th or 12th grader in years
 - 2014-15 = last years juniors and seniors
 - 2015-16 = this years juniors and seniors
 - 2016-17 = next years juniors(?) and seniors
- Completed all curricular requirements for diploma plan
 - Can be FHSP w/Endorsements or RHSP/MHSP
 - Committee graduation does not affect the type of diploma which is awarded

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Source: TEC 28.0258 and Chapter 74.1025

Who?

- Students **enrolled** and classified as 11th or 12th graders during:
 - 2014-15 (last year's 11th and 12th)
 - 2015-16 (this year's 11th and 12th)
 - 2016-17 school years (next year's 11th and 12th)
- Have failed 2 out of 5 EOC exams (the type of EOCs doesn't factor in)
- STAAR students only (TAKS students do not qualify)

Students receiving special education services

- Students under the umbrella of an ARD Committee – these students' decisions are made by the ARDC (no project/portfolio review needed)
- ARDC decisions for this specific set of 11th and 12th graders does not affect diploma

Under 19 TAC 89.1070(c), a student graduating under the FHSP may earn an endorsement if he or she:

- (1) completes the requirements in 19 TAC 74.12 (22 credits for the core courses) and the additional credit requirements in math, science, and elective courses with or without modified curriculum;
- (2) completes the courses required for the endorsement without any modified curriculum; and
- (3) performs satisfactorily on the required state assessments.

If the student does not meet the passing standard on all required state assessments, he or she cannot receive an endorsement due to the requirement in Under 19 TAC 89.1070(c)(3). However, if the student is classified in the 11th or 12th grade during the 2014-15, 2015-16, or 2016-17 school year, and has taken each state assessment and failed no more than two of the assessments, he or she can receive an endorsement if he or she has met the course and credit requirements in 19 TAC 89.1070(c) (1) and (2). See 19 TAC 89.1070(d).

Transfer credits and EOC exams

- Reminder: If a student is awarded credit for a course which has an EOC based upon coursework done in private school, another state, another country or home school, they are not required to take the EOC exam for that course to receive a diploma.
- So only the required EOC exams would be taken into consideration for this student with the same criteria of “no more than two”

Source: Chapter 101.3021 (e) and TEA FAQ #9

Make note for ELL students

- If a student qualified for and uses the ELL English I provision, whereby they do not have to retest on English I, will use that English I as one of the two assessments for the IGC.
- If the ELL student qualifies for and uses the ELL English I Provision, they do not need an IGC review to graduate if this is their only assessment not passed.
- It is the student's choice to retest, not LPAC. They can retest at any time.
- ELL Provision qualifications:
 - First 3 years in Texas schools
 - Never having achieved Advanced High reading

Source: TAC 101.3022 (c),
(e)(2)(A-B)

Grade level and enrollment

- No IGC can be convened before the end of a student's 11th grade year.
- No decision for graduation can be made before the student's 12th grade year
- A committee must be established for each student who qualifies – it is not a choice of the district or student
- Student must be actively enrolled. A district can choose to re-enroll a student who qualifies (consider *non-membership*).
- Student cannot graduate early via IGC.
- If a committee is established for the student and they transfer and diploma is not yet awarded, the other school “shall request information from the student's original individual graduation committee of record and shall implement the original individual graduation committee recommendations to the extent possible”.

Source: 74.1025 and SB149 text

PROCEDURES

State rules and your choices

The committee members

- Principal or designee
- Teacher of the EOC course(s) for which student did not pass
 - If not available, someone designated by the principal a teacher certified in this course area and familiar with student
- Department chair or lead teacher supervising the EOC teacher
- Parent **OR** designated advocate (appointed by principal) **OR** student if over 18
 - The parent needs a translator, if the parent or designee does not speak English

Source: TEC 28.0258 and Chapter 74.1025

Notification required

Parent must be given notice in a timely manner of the meeting

- in person, via mail or email
- clear and easy to understand
- written in English or the native language as appropriate

Two meetings

- Initial IGC meeting – reviews the factors and assigns the student: (1) remediation and (2) the project/portfolio to show proficiency in the entire course for the EOC
 - If the student has two EOCs, they will assign these things for both tests/courses
- Decision IGC meeting – reviews the work provided by the student for showing proficiency in the EOC subject and makes decision about diploma based upon IGC
 - Unanimous decision is final and not appealable
- A student may submit work previously completed to the IGC for review.

Dates to note

- No initial IGC can be established after June 10th or before the start of the next school year.
- For the student to count as a graduate in district data that year, a decision must be made before August 31st. All students who graduate afterward will be reported in subsequent year's data.

Factors to consider for review

There are 15 factors the committee can take into consideration. This is on a case by case basis.

Source: TEC 28.0258 and SB149 Text

1. Recommendation of the teacher for the EOC course(s) test not passed
2. Student's grade in the relevant EOC course(s)
3. The student's score on each administration of the EOC exam(s).
4. The student's performance on the assigned project/portfolio
5. The number of hours remediation the student has attended
6. Attendance rate
7. TSI exam performance as satisfactory for "college readiness"
8. Any successful dual credit in English, math, science, social studies
9. Any successful completion of AP, Pre-AP or IB courses in English, math, science, social studies
10. Rating of Advanced High on TELPAS (as relevant)
11. 50+ on CLEP exam
12. ACT, SAT or ASVAB exam scores
13. Completion of CTE courses required for a certification or industry credential
14. Student's overall preparedness for postsecondary success
15. Any other factors as designated by board of trustees for district

The decision

- After reviewing the considerations, the IGC may determine the student is qualified to graduate.
- Student must complete the requirements set out by IGC and they must deem the work as satisfactory.
- The decision must be unanimous. (If not a unanimous then the diploma cannot be awarded via IGC.)
- The decision is final and may not be appealed.

District is responsible for documentation

These first two pieces will be needed for PEIMS reporting.

This might include:

- List of qualifying students
- List of students who received diploma via IGC
- parent notification
- student assessment history
- meeting minutes – including signatures
- evidence of factors used in decision
- student's work and remediation attendance

Consider using documents provided by ESC 12

- Checklists
- Sample forms for meetings
- Sample parent notification letters in English and Spanish
- TEA FAQ documents

Do they have to retest?

- A student must have been provided the opportunity to test for each EOC before the IGC decision can be used to award the diploma.
 - Do not forget that students who enroll with credit from another state, country, private school or homeschool would not need to take the exams at all.
- If a student is enrolled for more than one opportunity, they are to retest at each opportunity.

Source: Chapter 101.3022 (e)(3)

REPORTING

Which PEIMS submission gets what information?

PEIMS data collections

- SB149 requires that each year, districts report the number of students who qualified for the IGC and the number who receive a diploma via IGC decision.
- In fall 2015, the data was collected as two pieces in PEIMS
 - Number of IGCs established
 - Number of diplomas awarded via IGC
- There are two PEIMS elements which will capture this data in the future.
 - (E1562) - submission 1 - Leaver code 01, you will also report if this graduate was via IGC
 - (E1563) - submission 3 - whether an IGC has been *established* for this student (if not an 11th or 12th grader, there will be fatal edit)
- Your PEIMS personnel will get more of the specifics during trainings in the future.
- This collection expires on September 1, 2018

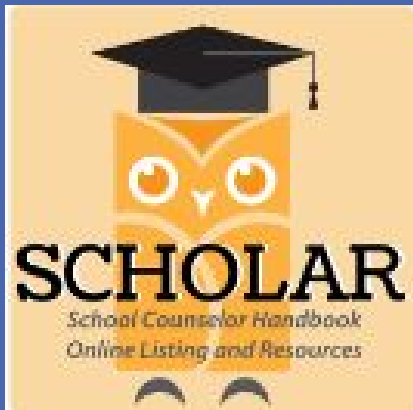
Source: TEC 28.0259 and TEA

SUPPORT FOR YOU

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