

85th Legislative Session (2017)

Below is a short summary of bills for the 85th Legislative Session:

Key TAMSA bills:

HB 1650 (Goldman-R): Allows for students to be exempt from the US History EOC upon successful completion of a dual credit US History course.

SB 825 (Taylor, L-R): Allows for districts to administer a college entrance exam at the state cost, either in spring of 11th grade or anytime in 12th grade.

HB 1776 (Ashby): Allows for students to take the national citizenship exam instead of the US History EOC.

HB 1993 (Anderson, R-R): Authorizes the Commissioner to identify nationally recognized, norm-reference assessments as alternative assessments to be used for student achievement for accountability for grades 3-8 and high school. These must follow ESSA and the Commissioner will need to get a waiver.

HB 2302 (Blanco-D)/ SB 1483 (Campbell-R): Requires schools to administer the ASVAB assessment or any vocational assessment for 10th-12th graders who are interested.

HB 3104 (VanDeaver-R): Requires districts to be responsible for the writing assessment in grades 4, 7, E1 and E2. These assessments are to be locally based and could include portfolios. This bill is the exact bill that passed out of the House last session as HB 1164.

HB 3114 (Allen-D): Removes the expiration date on the IGCs and removes student performance requirements for grade promotion in grades 3-8, but it keeps the Student Success Initiative.

HB 3607 (King, K-R): Allows for students to take and pass a TSI or a nationally recognized, norm-reference assessment (Act/SAT) for high school graduation, in lieu of STAAR EOCs. Students are required to take a review course for the test prior to taking the exam. Students can retake assessment until they meet standards. The Commissioner will set the standards.

SB 2049 (Taylor, L-R): Requires districts to administer the TSI, SAT or ACT in grade 11, by the Commissioner's approval. If the scores are at the approval of the Commissioner, the E2 EOC score could be dropped. The Commissioner and the Texas Higher Education Board and the Texas Workforce Commission need to work together to consider which scores are deemed satisfactory for post secondary work. This would include a pilot program for computer adaptive testing for students in grades 3-8 with 1 large urban district, 1 medium-sized district, and 1 rural district.

SB 463 (Seliger – R) Continues the Individual Graduation Committees (IGCs) for high school students failing up to two STAAR tests. Allows an alternative pathway to graduation. Without this bill, the IGC process will expire in September 2017.

SB 531 (Lucio-D) Removes sunset from IGC law and requires TEA to count IGC graduates as performing at satisfactory levels on STAAR EOCs for accountability purposes. Allows TEA to request a federal waiver to use the data of IGC grads for accountability.

HB 966 (Huberty – R) House companion bill to SB 463

HB 515 (Van Deaver – R) This bill requires that Texas test no more than is required by federal law. It would effectively eliminate the writing assessments in grades 4 & 7 as well as social studies in grade 8. It would limit the EOCs in high school to reading, math and science to comply with ESSA. It effectively eliminates US History EOC and one writing EOC.

HB 1321 (Landgraf-R) Removes requirements to use assessments for grade promotion or graduation. Requires districts to utilize improvement plans in place and reviewed annually, covering multiple needs of the students, both for education and social/emotional purposes.

HB 1333 (Isaac-R) Allows districts to use STAAR or any nationally norm-referenced test that meets TEKS. Reduces the number of exams to those required by ESSA. Removes STAAR from teacher evaluations. Reduces weight of assessment in the accountability system from 55% to 25%, focusing more weight on drop out rates, parental involvement and health and wellness.

Other Important Testing Legislation for the 85th Legislative Session:

HB 1980 (VanDeaver-R): Allows for Superintendants to provide an Individual Graduation Committee for out of state students who transfer into Texas public schools who have completed 11th grade. Several parameters must be met to qualify for this type of IGC.

HB 2132 (King, K-R): Accountability bill that reduces the effect that STAAR has on our overall ratings. It allows for other assessments to be counted in the performance domain such as AP/IB/TSI/SAT/ACT/ASVAB/Industry certs.

HB 22 (Huberty-R): Accountability bill that reduces the effect that STAAR has on overall ratings to 50%, allows for other assessments to be counted in the performance such as AP/IB/TSI/SAT/ACT/ASVAB/Industry certs. (Lower emphasis on STAAR)

SB 2051 (Taylor): Accountability bill similar to Chairman Hubery's but with less flexibility in time for implementation, districts achieve a single letter grade, and less non-test measures are allowed.

HB 61 (Guillen – D) Predominantly related to accountability but also contains a section related to allowing the TEA Commissioner to promulgate a rule setting a different standard of satisfactory performance to students never provides special education needs.

HB 77 (Metcalf – R) Repeals the expiration date of the IGCs. Like SB 463, it would allow continuation of IGCs after the September 2017 original expiration.

HB 79 (Guillen – D) Bill mandates that TEA cannot impose limitations on the number of special education students identified and eligible for alternative state assessments.

HB 417 (White –R) Repeals the TSI as a benchmark for post-secondary readiness. Instead requires that the THECB set the post-secondary readiness score on SAT, ACT, and questions written by the THECB for end-of-course assessments or demonstration of performance by the English 3 and Algebra 2 EOCs. Unclear if the THECB would set the post-secondary readiness standards for English 3 or Algebra 2.

HB 546 (Deshotel – D) Restricts state assessments to those required by federal law. Unclear if this applies only to 3-8 or to high school as well.

HB 615 (Leach – R) Removes grade promotion tied to STAAR performance from 5th and 8th grade. After second test failure, grade placement committee would consider grade promotion without further accelerated instruction and remediation.

HB 657 (Bernal – D) For special education students who fail STAAR test, the district must meet prior to another test administration to evaluate issues related to grade promotion and remediation.

HB 988 (Gonzalez, Mary – D) Proposes a three year pilot program where districts may implement portfolio-based student assessments in grades 3-8.

HB 989 (Gonzalez, Mary – D) Proposes a three year portfolio assessment pilot program for secondary students related to English I and II and Algebra I, as well as other courses deemed appropriate by the district.

HB 1191 (Bell – R) Requires high school graduation based on a test but opens up the option to a non-EOC type test, as determined by the TEA commissioner. Moves sunset date on Individual Graduation Committees to 2023. Requires testing will comply with federal law, and that the commissioner may designate a norm referenced test (such as SAT, ACT) to accomplish this requirement.

HB 1195 (Swanson) Requires passage of a new civics exam in order to graduate from high school.

HB 1329 (Krause-R) Requires schools to report detailed description of expenses related to the state assessment program, including cost of materials, salary expenses, maintenance and operation expenses for days in school spent preparing for, administering and readministering STAAR tests.

SB 215 (Menendez – D) Limits assessments to no more than required by federal law. Companion bill to HB 546. Unclear if applicable to secondary.

SB 606 (Huffines-R) Allows districts of innovation to administer national norm-referenced assessments instead of state assessments (STAAR)

SB 615 (Seliger-R) Allows for students to graduate from high school having successfully passed, English 1 and English 2 (writing only) , Biology, US History EOCs and the TSI for reading and math. The English 1 and English 2 reading EOCs and the Algebra 1 EOC are removed as a graduation requirement. This is for students entering 9th grade in the 2017-2018 school year and beyond. The bill removes the expiration date for the Individual Graduation Committees. Only students in *fifth grade* who test above grade level with an appropriate testing instrument (not specified) do not need to take a grade level state assessment. (It currently reads for fifth and eighth grade.)

SB 1336 (Leach-R) Requires schools to report a description of all expenses a school has paid relating to state assessments.