

**Local Achievement
Testing**

In addition to the state-administered assessment instruments, a district may adopt and administer criterion-referenced or norm-referenced assessment instruments, or both, at any grade level. A locally adopted norm-referenced assessment instrument must be economical, nationally recognized, and state-approved.

For purposes of this provision, “assessment instrument” means a district-commissioned achievement test, either nationally normed or criterion-referenced, that is group administered and reported publicly (such as to a board) in the aggregate.

A company or organization scoring an assessment instrument shall send test results to a district for verification. A district shall have 90 days to verify the accuracy of test data and report the results to the board.

A district shall follow procedures for test security and confidentiality set forth in 19 Administrative Code Chapter 101, Subchapter C. [See EKB]

Education Code 39.026, 39.032; 19 TAC 101.101

In any subject area for which a state assessment is administered, a district may not administer locally required assessments designed to prepare students for state assessments to any student on more than ten percent of the instructional days in any school year. A campus-level planning and decision-making committee may limit the administration of locally required assessments to ten percent or a lower percentage of the instructional days in any school year. This prohibition does not apply to state assessments. *Education Code 39.0262*

**Benchmark
Assessment
Instruments**

“Benchmark assessment instrument” means a district-required assessment instrument designed to prepare students for a corresponding state-administered assessment instrument.

A district may not administer to any student more than two benchmark assessment instruments to prepare the student for a corresponding state-administered assessment instrument.

This prohibition does not apply to the administration of a college preparation assessment instrument, including the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT, an advanced placement test, an international baccalaureate examination, or an independent classroom examination designed or adopted and administered by a classroom teacher.

A parent of or person standing in parental relation to a student who has special needs, as determined in accordance with

Commissioner rule, may request administration to the student of additional benchmark assessment instruments.

Education Code 39.0263

College Preparation Assessments

The following provisions apply only if the legislature appropriates funds for these purposes.

Each school year, and at state cost, a district may administer an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced preliminary college preparation assessment instrument to students in the spring of the eighth grade, for the purpose of diagnosing the academic strengths and deficiencies of students before entrance into high school.

TEA shall:

1. Select and approve vendors of the specific assessment instruments administered under this section; and
2. Provide reimbursement to a district for all fees associated with the administration of the assessment instrument, from funds appropriated for that purpose.

TEA shall ensure that a school district is not reimbursed for the administration of an assessment instrument to a student to whom the assessment instrument is not actually administered.

Education Code 39.0261

Homeschooled Students

The following provisions apply to a homeschooled student entitled under Education Code 25.001 to attend school in a district.

A district shall permit a homeschooled student to participate in an administration of the PSAT/NMSQT by the district.

“Homeschooled student” means a student who predominantly receives instruction in a general elementary or secondary education program that is provided by the parent, or a person standing in parental authority, in or through the child’s home.

Fees

A district shall require a homeschooled student to pay the same fee to participate in such a test that a student enrolled in the district is required to pay.

Notice

A district shall post on an Internet website maintained by the district the date the PSAT/NMSQT will be administered. The notice must state that the PSAT/NMSQT is available for homeschooled students eligible to attend school in the district and describe the procedures for a homeschooled student to register for the test.

A district that does not maintain an Internet website must publish the notice in a newspaper in the district. If a newspaper is not published in the district, the district shall provide for the publication of notice in at least one newspaper in the county in which the district's central administrative office is located.

The required notice must be posted or published at the same time and with the same frequency with which the information is provided to a student who attends a district school.

Education Code 29.916