

**Texas College Preparation Program (TCPP)
2010-2011 11th Grade Entrance Examinations
Frequently Asked Questions
12/13/2010**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **I won't be able to attend either of the voucher trainings via TETN. Will you offer the training again?**

No, but the training presentation is available on the TCPP Grade 11 webpage at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147489129>. Additionally, the sessions will be archived and can be accessed by contacting your regional ESC TETN manager.

2. **Which college entrance exams can students take as part of the TCPP?**

Students may select either the ACT or the SAT—not both. The state will pay the regular registration fees associated with the ACT (with or without writing) or the SAT. Please note that SAT subject tests are not included.

3. **Who is eligible to take a state-funded college entrance exam?**

Current grade 11 students attending a public, charter, or home school are eligible to register for and take one state-funded college entrance examination. Students must be classified as 11th graders during the 2010-2011 school year.

4. **How do students register for one of the state-funded college entrance examinations?**

Public and charter school students must obtain a state-issued exam voucher from their high school counselors. Home-schooled students may request a voucher directly from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) by e-mailing CollegePrepProgram@tea.state.tx.us with "Home School Voucher Request" as the subject line. Once students have received a valid voucher, they should follow the test vendor's registration instructions to register online or by mail.

5. **Can students take any administration of the ACT or SAT?**

No. There are four eligible test administration dates this year. The eligible test administration dates are as follows:

ACT		SAT	
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Test Date	Registration Deadline
April 9	March 4	May 7	April 8
June 11	May 6	June 4	May 6

6. **Are private school students eligible for a state-funded college entrance exam?**

No. Unfortunately, at this time the Texas Education Agency (TEA) does not have the authority to include private school students in this program.

7. **Home-schooled students have contacted our school/district requesting an exam voucher. Should we give them a voucher from our school/district allotment?**

No. The TEA is distributing vouchers directly to home-schooled students upon request. Please direct home-schooled students or their parents to request a voucher by e-mailing CollegePrepProgram@tea.state.tx.us with "Home School Voucher Request" as the subject line.

REFUNDS AND FEE WAIVERS

8. If a student has already paid for one of the test administrations above, can he or she obtain a refund?

If a student registered and paid for one of the eligible administrations above, he or she may be eligible for a refund. Students must obtain a valid exam voucher from their counselor and follow the directions on the voucher to request a refund. All refunds must be requested no later than March 15, 2011. Please note that a refund request will count as the student's one state-funded college entrance examination.

9. Does this voucher replace the fee waiver that students qualify for based on family income?

No. The TCPP exam voucher is provided in addition to any family-income based waivers provided by the testing companies.

10. If a student has already registered for one of the eligible administrations with a fee waiver, can he/she use the voucher instead?

Yes. A student who has registered for an eligible test administration with a fee waiver may request a refund of the fee waiver and instead use the TCPP exam voucher. This will preserve the fee waiver for future use. Students must follow the instructions on the voucher to apply for a refund. All refunds must be requested no later than March 15, 2011.

VOUCHERS

11. When will vouchers be available?

The vouchers will be mailed by TEA beginning January 3, 2011, for anticipated arrival in districts on or around January 15, 2011.

12. Will every 11th grade student receive an exam voucher?

No. Funding is available to provide state-funded college entrance examinations for approximately 60 percent of students currently enrolled in 11th grade. Please note that district and school voucher allotments are based on 60% of the 11th grade enrollment (as established by the most current data available to TEA). Each local district and charter school will determine how best to distribute its allotment of vouchers.

13. How will school districts and charter schools receive vouchers?

The vouchers will be mailed by TEA via the United States Postal Service beginning January 3, 2011, for anticipated arrival in districts on or around January 15, 2011. Vouchers will be mailed to the office of the superintendent or the charter school administrator and distributed to campuses by the district TCPP coordinator.

14. How do students obtain vouchers?

Vouchers will be distributed from TEA to each school district and charter school that has 11th grade students. Vouchers will be issued by the appropriate campus or district staff directly to eligible students. TEA will issue vouchers to home-schooled students. Home-schooled students/parents may request a voucher by emailing CollegePrepProgram@tea.state.tx.us and indicating "Home School Voucher Request" in the subject line.

15. My campus did not receive enough vouchers. Can we request more?

TEA has issued each district and school an allotment of vouchers approximately equal to 60% of each district and school's 11th grade enrollment. The district TCPP coordinator may wish to facilitate the transfer of unused vouchers from one campus to another and/or your regional education service center (ESC) may be able to connect you with other districts that have unused vouchers.

16. If a school has unused vouchers, can they send the vouchers to campuses that have more demand?

Yes. Once a school has provided its eligible students the opportunity to obtain the allotted vouchers, they may choose to send unused vouchers to schools with greater demand. The district TCPP coordinator may wish to facilitate the transfer of unused vouchers from one campus to another and/or your regional education service center (ESC) may be able to connect you with other districts that have unused vouchers.

17. Can students use both voucher numbers to register for both an ACT and an SAT?

No. Each student is eligible for one state-funded exam, either the ACT or the SAT—not both. The TEA and the testing companies will be monitoring registration data to ensure that students do not register for more than one exam. Students who register for more than one exam with a TCPP voucher will either have their registration cancelled or will be billed by the testing company.

VOUCHER DISTRIBUTION

18. Is there a particular process that schools and districts should use to distribute vouchers?

Districts and charter schools are encouraged to develop a process for distributing vouchers to eligible students. Any process should include (1) informing students/parents of the program and appropriate use of the voucher, (2) tracking voucher numbers and collecting student signatures, (3) distributing informational flyers, and (4) maintaining the security of vouchers.

19. We do not have enough vouchers to meet the demand. How do we determine which students will receive vouchers?

Each district and charter school is responsible for developing a process for distributing its allotment of vouchers. In developing this process, it is important to keep in mind the goals of the program, which are to expand access to college readiness assessments and college entrance examinations, to expand a college-going culture among all students, and to provide data on college readiness to schools and districts to help inform instructional decisions.

20. Can we distribute unused vouchers to students in other grade levels?

No. Under the guidelines of the Texas College Participation Program, only current 11th grade students are eligible for a state-funded college entrance exam.

VOUCHER SECURITY

21. Are students allowed to give their vouchers away to friends/classmates?

No. It is the responsibility of school staff to ensure that vouchers are only distributed to eligible students. If a student decides that he or she is not going to use the voucher, the student should return the voucher to his/her counselor. The counselor may then issue the unused voucher to another eligible student.

22. What do schools/districts do with unused vouchers after the program is over?

The vouchers have an expiration date of June 11, 2011. After that date, the vouchers will be useless. We ask that you shred any unused vouchers after June 11, 2011.

For additional questions regarding the Texas College Preparation Program, please contact the TCPP team by phone at (512) 463-9581 or by email at CollegePrepProgram@tea.state.tx.us.