

The College Board partners with schools and districts throughout the state, sharing their common vision to connect Texas schoolchildren to college success and opportunity. Because of these partnerships, we wanted to share written testimony on a section of SB 1031 that is problematic for schools and principals.

In section 9, sub-section 39.025, (a-1), of Senate Bill 1031, the language states that a student's satisfactory performance on an Advanced Placement (AP) test or International Baccalaureate (IB) examination may satisfy the end of course (EOC) examination requirement. This presents problems due to:

- AP and IB exam administration occurs in May, with results not available until July, too late to be an appropriate evaluation tool for students that could be used in place of EOC exams.
- If EOC exams are administered in April/May, the unintended consequence of this language is that school administrators would have no choice but to require students to take both the end of course exams and the AP and IB exams.
- The language currently states that students in dual credit courses, or other courses in which students earn college credit, are required only to prove "satisfactory performance" in those courses.

To provide consistency and reduce any logistical issues for school administrators, we suggest that SB 1031 be amended to:

- Allow demonstration of satisfactory student performance in an AP, IB, and dual-enrollment class, or other assessment instrument determined by the commissioner to be at least as rigorous as an end-of-course assessment.

The successes of these provisions are contingent on the Texas Education Agency Commissioner to clearly define by rule what constitutes satisfactory performance. The College Board favors any bill language that supports the Commissioner's ability to make and implement satisfactory performance standards for this subsection.