

House Bill 5
Locally Developed Courses
College Prep for Mathematics and English
Alief ISD and Houston Community College
2014/15

In response to HB 5 and the ability the law provides for local districts to partner with higher education to create locally developed courses, Alief ISD, Spring Branch ISD, Katy ISD and Fort Bend ISD have partnered with Houston Community College (HCC) to create two courses: 1) College Prep for Mathematics and 2) College Prep for English. The courses have been assigned the following HCC course numbers as well as course names: College Prep for Math - 0308 and 0312 and College prep for English- 0420. Alief ISD, along with Spring Branch ISD, Katy ISD and Fort Bend ISD have worked with HCC to develop these local courses with the expectation that an MOU between each district individually and HCC will be signed in January or February 2014. The MOU will include general agreements regarding the courses, who will teach them, what grades and assessments will determine successful completion, etc. As required in HB 5, the purpose of these two specific courses is to provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate college readiness in math and/or ELA so they are able to begin taking college credit bearing courses their first year of college without remedial or developmental courses.

A couple of key issues included in the agreement are:

1. If, by the end of a student's sophomore or junior year, a student has not demonstrated college readiness in either one or both math and ELA via the Alg. I EOC, PSAT, PLAN, SAT, ACT, TSI or any other measurement accepted as a formal indicator of college readiness by HCC, the student will be enrolled in the appropriate newly developed College Prep Mathematics or College Prep English Course.
2. If the student passes the appropriate College Prep Course(s) and final exam as outlined in the MOU, the student will then be eligible to take college credit bearing courses, regardless of scores on the TSI or other college readiness assessments based on a single assessment score. There will be no remediation or developmental courses required.
3. The courses and learning outcomes were developed by HCC math and English instructors along with our high school math and ELA instructors.
4. Alief ISD teachers will teach the courses beginning in the fall of 2014. The teachers will begin receiving training on the course requirements and curriculum in the spring of 2014.
5. You will notice two separate math courses (0308 and 0312). Each are a semester course that genuinely prepares kids for the specific math skills outlined under the learning outcomes identified.

Our desire is to have these college prep courses available for students in need of additional instruction to become truly "college ready" and not require any remedial or developmental college courses. We also believe the development of these courses could be a template for others to use across Texas as well as a template to be used to create other types of meaningful locally developed courses.