TexasCollegeBridge

Practice Insights
2026-27



TSIA 2 Test Prep Pilot with Temple ISD

Executive summary

In Spring 2026, Temple ISD participated in the Texas College Bridge (TCB) TSIA2 Test Prep pilot to explore new ways to help students demonstrate college readiness.

What began as a targeted pilot with on-level juniors expanded to include a small cohort of advanced middle school students and, ultimately, is helping the district transform its approach to TSIA2 preparation.

The experience reinforced the importance of starting earlier, communicating why college readiness matters, and creating intentional testing pathways across grade levels—all while positioning the district for evolving CCMR and accountability expectations.

This case study describes how Temple ISD ran its pilot, key learnings from the experience, and how the district is incorporating them into its longer-term testing and readiness strategy.

The setting and opportunity

A longtime user of Texas College Bridge College Prep, Temple ISD was familiar with TCB's approach and viewed the TSIA2 Test Prep pilot as a way to help more students demonstrate college readiness before graduation.

Led by Temple ISD CCMR Coordinator Robert Richardson and Temple High School Associate Principal Barbara Epperson, the district initially planned to introduce TSIA2 Test Prep to on-level juniors (class of 2027). Because the pilot began midway through the 2025-26 school year, this group offered a practical starting point for integrating the program into existing instruction.

Conversations with other participating districts during planning led Temple ISD to expand their pilot approach. With changes to the state accountability system on the horizon—and greater emphasis expected on advanced levels of college, career, and military readiness—the team added a small cohort of advanced middle school students to the pilot.

That decision also let the team explore how earlier readiness might support future weighted CCMR measures and help shape the district's longer-term strategy.

Watch a presentation from our June 2026 Summit featuring Temple ISD leadership.

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TEMPLE ISD

AT A GLANCE

- Located in Central Texas
- Serves >8,800 students; >2,300 at Temple High School
- Comprehensive high school with 3 feeder middle schools (plus an AEC and DAEP)
- Temple HS students:
  - Nearly half Hispanic
  - Almost one quarter African American
  - >70% economically disadvantaged

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How Temple ISD ran the spring pilot

Temple ISD adapted the program to each student group's schedule and academic needs. Beginning in January 2026, teachers embedded Test Prep on Fridays in English III and Algebra II for on-level juniors. During the final six weeks of school, 17 advanced Geometry students from the district's three middle schools received Test Prep as homework. These two approaches gave the team a practical test of both classroom integration and independent work.

Student group	Delivery	Spring 2026 timing
On-level juniors	Friday practice in English III and Algebra II	Beginning January 2026
Advanced middle school Geometry students	Assigned homework across three middle schools	Final six weeks of school
Select seniors	Asynchronous and on an as needed basis for those very few students who are attending institutions that do not accept College Prep	Final six weeks of school

The middle school pilot produced a particularly notable result: Fifteen of the 17 middle school participants passed TSIA2 Math. The other two missed the passing mark by only a few points. The small group does not establish what results Temple could expect at scale, but it showed the district a promising way to begin preparation before high school.

What Temple Learned

Start with why the test matters

One of important learnings from the Temple pilot had less to do with the mechanics of test preparation and more to do with how the district communicated about the TSIA2. Rather than focus primarily on when students needed to test, the district began emphasizing why the test matters—connecting TSIA2 to college readiness and the opportunities that follow a qualifying score.

The mindset shift—from treating TSIA2 primarily as a testing event to viewing college readiness as a pathway that can be deliberately built over multiple years—called for communication across the school, including teachers whose classes were not using Test Prep.

> *As we look back on this pilot, the greatest takeaway wasn't just the data—it was the mindset. By shifting the conversation from when the test is to why it matters, we built a proactive pathway to CCMR.*
>
> Barbara Epperson, Ed.D.
> Associate Principal
> Temple ISD

Connect readiness to funding

Over the past few years, Temple ISD has developed a greater understanding of the potential financial impact associated with increasing the number of students who meet college readiness criteria and subsequently enroll in college.

A qualifying TSIA2 score can help a student meet a CCMR criterion; when an eligible student also enrolls in college, that outcome may contribute to district Outcomes Bonus Funding – funding that a district can put toward CCMR programs including Texas College Bridge.

For example, over the most recent two-year period, Temple saw its Outcomes Bonus Funding increase from **~$2,000 to ~$22,000 with an 85% CCMR rate (class of 2024)**. Moving forward, the team sees room to increase the number of students who meet the criteria, while recognizing that preparation, testing, and subsequent enrollment all affect the funding outcome.

The takeaway is straightforward: helping more students demonstrate readiness can generate benefits that extend beyond an individual test score.

What Temple Learned, cont'd.

Recognize more than one route to readiness

While the district entered the pilot focused on TSIA2 outcomes, the team also saw evidence that the benefits of focused test preparation could extend beyond the TSIA2 itself.

Leaders observed an increase in students demonstrating TSI exemption through other assessments, including approximately **25 additional students meeting the standard through SAT Math.**

While the increase does not isolate the effect of the TSIA2 pilot, it does reinforce a broader planning principle: strong preparation in the underlying skills students need to demonstrate college readiness can potentially support performance across multiple assessments.

One solution. Multiple student groups. Stronger outcomes. What began as a search for a better TSI solution quickly became a district-wide success story, helping us reach more students, accelerate readiness, and strengthen testing outcomes across the board.

Robert Richardson, M.Ed.
CCMR Coordinator
Temple ISD

The Next Phase

Multi-grade testing strategy

The pilot gave Temple ISD a foundation for moving from a single-semester initiative toward a more intentional, multi-grade college readiness strategy for the 2026–27 school year.

Under this approach, TSIA2 testing and preparation is no longer concentrated at a single point in high school. Each grade would have students preparing or testing at a point that fits their coursework and likely readiness. The district also plans to use early results to identify students who need a quick retest or a longer period of support.

Student group	Planned approach
Advanced middle school students	Expand targeted preparation in Algebra I and Geometry, building on the pilot.
Advanced freshmen and sophomores	Offer earlier opportunities to demonstrate readiness, as students will be taking college credit bearing courses while still in high school.
On-level juniors	Continue targeted preparation time in Math for students who benefit from additional calculator-based coursework.
Seniors	Use Test Prep in the fall, with a chance to retest early; offer College Prep in the spring when needed.
Students near a passing score	Rapid retest loop utilizing small-group test prep held the morning of the examination.

The goal is not to test every student at every grade level. Rather, Temple ISD is developing a flexible approach so students can receive the right preparation at the right point in their academic progression.

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Preparing for accountability changes

The decision to include middle school students in the Temple ISD pilot was also influenced by changes expected under the updated Texas A–F accountability system.

For Temple ISD, those changes carry particular significance. Temple High School is the district's only comprehensive high school and accounts for approximately 40 percent of the district's A–F rating. As Weighted CCMR is planned to commence with the class of 2030, district leaders are thinking now about how to help more students reach demonstrated and advanced levels of college readiness.

TSIA2 Test Prep provides a critical pathway for students to demonstrate that readiness, whether through TSIA2 or through qualifying ACT or SAT performance.

This longer-term perspective has evolved how Temple ISD thinks about the timing of college readiness. Rather than waiting until a student's final years of high school, the district can begin identifying opportunities earlier and build preparation into students' academic pathways over time.

This pilot helped us create the blueprint to prepare for the 2028 Refresh and CCMR weighting, turning TSI exemption into a predictable, repeatable cornerstone of student success for Temple High School.

Barbara Epperson, Ed.D.
Associate Principal
Temple ISD

From pilot to blueprint

Temple ISD began its TSIA2 test prep pilot with a practical question: *How can we better prepare students for the TSIA2?*

By the end of the pilot, the conversation had expanded, as the district considered when different students should begin preparing, how readiness could be reinforced across multiple grade levels, how educators and families could better understand the value of TSI, and how improved outcomes could support both students and the district.

The most significant result, therefore, may not be a single test score or cohort outcome. It is the creation of a more proactive approach to college readiness—one designed to identify students earlier, provide preparation when they need it, and make demonstrated readiness an increasingly predictable part of the student experience.

Texas College Bridge TSIA2 Test Prep: Pilot Results

Available to all TCB districts beginning in fall 2026, TSIA2 Test Prep was piloted in spring 2026. Outcomes data from 22 participating districts show that the program delivered clear academic gains, driving a significant number of students to passing scores in both TSIA2 Math and English, and unlocking a pathway for districts to maximize Outcomes Bonus Funding.

Overall pilot performance

800+ TSIA2 MATH PASSERS

3,741 students across 21 districts participated in TSIA2 Math prep, with ***more than 800*** *(22%)* passing the TSIA2 Math exam.

400+ TSIA2 ENGLISH PASSERS

2,067 students across 18 districts participated in TSIA2 English prep, with ***more than 400*** *(20%)* passing the TSIA2 English exam.

For more detailed results from the spring 2026 pilot, click here. To learn more and assess the potential impact on your Outcomes Bonus Funding, email info@texascollegebridge.org