

EXPLANATORY EFFECTS OF TEXAS HOUSE BILL 5 ON COLLEGE ALGEBRA

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Abstract:

In recent years, the population of academically underprepared mathematics students attending college is significantly increasing. These students arrive to college unaware that they lack the proper learning strategies that are necessary for academic success. In June 2013, Texas State legislature with the approval of the Texas School Board of Education (SBOE) passed House Bill 5 (HB5), which reduced the graduation requirements for high school students beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. The new legislation only requires current high school students to pass Algebra 1, Geometry, and one additional mathematics course of the student's choosing from a list of SBOE approved (less rigorous) alternatives to Algebra 2. Since Algebra 2 is no longer a requirement for obtaining a high school diploma, the State Legislature and SBOE lower the cutoff score of the placement exam, Texas Success Initiative (TSI). This study aims to investigate the impact of the lowered TSI placement exam cut-off scores as well as the learning characteristics of the students enrolled in College Algebra courses.

Now, presenting the results on the 1220 of 3200 Fall 2016 College Algebra students who took my 55-item questionnaire.

Come find out how many 1315 students reported only completing Algebra 1 in high school!



Brittany Webre is a Doctoral Research Assistant for the Mathematics Department at Texas State University. She is in her fourth year of the PhD Mathematics Education Program. She graduated from University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Mathematics and received her MEd in Mathematics Education from Texas State University. Her research interests involve investigating the learning strategies of College Algebra students. She is also interested in exploring new technologies and digital media trends that could improve the teaching & learning of Mathematics.

