Texas State Intensive English (TSIE)
2018-2019 Proficiency Level Descriptors

For information, please contact:

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### TSIE 2018-2019 Proficiency Level Descriptors – Speaking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1500 High Beginning</th>
<th>2500 Low Intermediate</th>
<th>3500 High Intermediate</th>
<th>4500 Low Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Beginning TSIE students can speak some basic English used in academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Low Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to communicate orally in fairly predictable situations.</td>
<td>High Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to use moderately difficult speech in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Low Advanced TSIE students have the ability to use difficult speech structures in routine academic and social settings.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These students are able to:

- Use simple spoken English
- Seek clarification when trying to comprehend
- Use individual words and phrases during social and instructional interactions

These students are able to:

- Respond appropriately to simple requests and/or questions
- Use vocabulary related to everyday activities
- Pronounce English sounds accurately
- Maintain basic conversations in English

These students are able to:

- Use increasingly varied vocabulary related to social situations
- Present before a partner or groups
- Demonstrate increasing proficiency in pronunciation

These students are able to:

- Use vocabulary, including idioms, related to general interest topics
- Explain, support, and discuss general interest topics
- Prepare and present short speeches in front of an audience
- Pronounce sounds in English accurately especially with respect to intonation and pitch
- Use discourse markers that indicate organization of thought

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4550 High Advanced</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Advanced TSIE students have the ability to use complex English speech used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>These students are able to:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Use vocabulary, including idioms, related to complex topics
• Explain, support, and discuss complex topics
• Prepare and present long speeches in front of an audience
• Demonstrate pronunciation accuracy especially with respect to sentence stress, phrasing, and linking
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TSIE 2018-2019 Proficiency Level Descriptors – Listening</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1500 High Beginning</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>High Beginning TSIE students can understand simple English statements used in academic and social settings.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2500 Low Intermediate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Intermediate TSIE students can understand common English statements and questions used in academic and social settings.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3500 High Intermediate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>High Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to understand moderately difficult spoken English in controlled situations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4500 Low Advanced</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Advanced TSIE students have the ability to understand difficult spoken English used in academic and social settings.</td>
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</table>

These students are able to:
- Understand simple spoken English
- Seek clarification when trying to comprehend
- Identify and distinguish individual words and phrases during social and instructional interactions

These students are able to:
- Recognize simple requests and/or questions
- Recognize reductions in American speech
- Understand longer conversations
- Recognize many sounds of English pronunciation

These students are able to:
- Listen for specific information from moderately difficult lecture content
- Comprehend more and participate in more complex conversations
- Recognize most sounds of English pronunciation

These students are able to:
- Listen for specific content from advanced lecture content
- Comprehend and participate in complex conversations
- Recognize most sounds of English pronunciation
- Take notes on main ideas and details from shorter selections
<table>
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<th>4550 High Advanced</th>
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</table>

High Advanced TSIE students have the ability to understand a variety of complex spoken English structures.

These students are able to:

- Listen for and take notes on main ideas and details from long, complex selections
- Comprehend and participate in complex conversations with ease
- Recognize all sounds of English pronunciation
# TSIE 2018-2019 Proficiency Level Descriptors – Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1500 High Beginning</th>
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<th>3500 High Intermediate</th>
<th>4500 Low Advanced</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Beginning TSIE students have the ability to read English sentences and understand basic English vocabulary used in academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Low Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to read basic English texts and understand high frequency vocabulary used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to read and understand moderately difficult English texts and understand moderately difficult English structures used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Low Advanced TSIE students have the ability to read and understand fairly long, complex selections and understand complex English structures used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These students are able to:
- Understand simple written English
- Read slowly (word by word)
- Identify basic English language structures
- Identify and distinguish individual words and phrases in highly routine or familiar contexts
- Understand English vocabulary that consists predominantly of high frequency words or words associated with pictures

These students are able to:
- Read and understand some academic vocabulary
- Use simple context clues to guess meaning of simple words
- Read slowly and in short phrases and possibly re-read to clarify meaning
- Identify main ideas of paragraphs, clear patterns of organizations in texts, and clear details and implications
- Answer exam questions in multiple formats

These students are able to:
- Read and understand vocabulary in selections of moderate length and difficulty
- Use a variety of context clues to guess meaning of words
- Read longer phrases, sentences, and whole selections with appropriate speed
- Identify main ideas of selections as well as organization patterns and details in longer texts

These students are able to:
- Read and understand vocabulary in fairly long and complex selections
- Use more complex context clues to guess the meaning of difficult words
- Read and understand main ideas in multiple paragraphs and entire selections with appropriate speed
- Understand fairly complex details and implications
- Answer fairly complex exam questions in multiple formats
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<td>• Answer moderately difficult exam questions in multiple formats</td>
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**4550 High Advanced**

High Advanced TSIE students have the ability to read and understand long and complex selections and university-level reading material used in routine academic and social settings.

These students are able to:

- Read and understand long, complex reading content
- Use complex context clues to guess the meaning of difficult structures
- Read and understand main ideas, details and organization structure of long, complex academic reading selections at appropriate speed
- Analyze and respond to academic reading selections using a variety of strategies
- Answer complex exam questions in multiple formats
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Beginning TSIE students have basic understanding of English vocabulary and English language structures necessary to produce written tasks used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Low Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to write basic English texts and produce basic written tasks in English used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to write moderately difficult English texts and produce moderately difficult written tasks in English used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Low Advanced TSIE students have the ability to write longer English texts and produce fairly difficult written tasks in English used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
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<td>- Use basic rules for spelling, punctuation, and capitalization</td>
<td>- Write simple and compound sentences in basic written contexts</td>
<td>- Write a variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences</td>
<td>- Write clear, correct complex, complex/compound, compound, and simple sentences</td>
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<td>- Use the simple present tense in written sentences or phrases</td>
<td>- Write related sentences in response to a prompt</td>
<td>- Show connections among ideas using a variety of common discourse markers</td>
<td>- Show connections using a variety of common and less usual discourse markers, conjunctions, prepositional phrases</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Write with basic vocabulary and grammar</td>
<td>- Develop and organize a paragraph in an academically acceptable format</td>
<td>- Develop and organize an essay in academically acceptable formats</td>
<td>- Develop/organize academic written assignments such as personal essays, short-answer exam questions, reports, reader-response papers, and fairly short research papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Write in simple sentences</td>
<td>- Show connections among ideas using basic discourse markers</td>
<td>- Summarize short academic content with extensive guidance</td>
<td>- Understand and begin to use the mechanics of summarizing,</td>
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<td>- Write informal summaries of narrative content</td>
<td>- Revise and edit written work with limited accuracy</td>
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<td>- Write more quickly with increased fluency under time pressure</td>
<td>- Write at increased speeds under time pressure</td>
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High Advanced TSIE students have the ability to write long and complex English texts and produce university-level written tasks used in routine academic and social settings.

These students are able to:

- Write a variety of clear correct sentences with a more mature, stylistically appropriate mixture of complex, complex/compound, compound, and simple sentences
- Develop and organize academic written assignments including a fairly long research paper with limited control by the teacher
- Revise and edit work accurately
- Summarize, paraphrase, quote, and cite sources accurately while avoiding plagiarism.