1. **What changes does this pilot make to the learning support placement policy?**

Starting in summer 2020 and continuing into the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years, TBR created an exception to [Policy 2.03.00.02](https://example.com/policies) (formerly A-100 guidelines). This exception adds high school grade point average (HS GPA) as an additional assessment tool for corequisite placement. For the duration of the pilot, institutions should place students with a cumulative HS GPA of 3.60 or higher out of corequisite learning support and directly into college level coursework in all three subject areas: math, writing, and reading. It is the intent of TBR that institutions use HS GPA for assessment and placement in the same way as they would use ACT, SAT, or Accuplacer scores. This means that institutions use the “best” score for placement, and that a student with a cumulative 3.6+ HS GPA be placed out of corequisite learning support regardless of other assessment scores. In the same way, a student at or above the ACT cut score would be placed out of corequisite learning support regardless of HS GPA.

**Scenario:** A student has an ACT of 17 and 3.90 HS GPA. The student shall be placed using the 3.90 HS GPA.

**TBR Board Review and Approval:** The Tennessee Board of Regents met on April 7, 2020. The exception to policy and summer/fall 2020 pilots were presented as a component of the Chancellor’s Interim Action report. The exception and pilots were approved. The Board approved an extension of this pilot on March 25, 2021.

2. **How should students be placed who may not have a valid learning support placement on record (i.e. no HS GPA or any other assessment)?**

The current [TBR learning support policy](https://example.com/policies) would either require some sort of valid assessment OR the institution has the option of automatically placing the student into corequisite learning support. Therefore, if there is no HS GPA or other assessment, the institution may choose to auto place the student into corequisite learning support.

3. **What qualifies as a valid assessment score?**

The list of recognized assessments and cut scores for learning support placement can be found in exhibit 2 of [TBR policy 2.03.00.03](https://example.com/policies). Per TBR’s learning support policy, assessment scores are valid for up to five years as calculated from the test date to the first day of class for the student’s entering term. However, for the purposes of the high school GPA placement pilot institutions may choose either to adhere to the 5-year timeframe for HS GPA or extend the timeframe further as the institution deems appropriate.

4. **Can high school GPA be placed on Student Test Scores (SOATEST)?**

Yes. Institutions have the flexibility to modify SOATEST in order to implement placement by HS GPA for this pilot. Those schools wishing to use SOATEST for implementation of the pilot should keep in mind that STVTESC is a level 2 validation table in Banner. Thus, it is recommended that the school reach out to the appropriate TBR contacts for the purposes of adding a new STVTESC code.
5. Which GPA should be used?

GPA is defined as “a grade point average on a 4.0 scale calculated with additional internal quality points awarded for advanced placement, honors or other similar courses according to the Uniform Grading Policy adopted by the State Board of Education.” (Retrieved March 18, 2021, from https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/tennessee-hope-scholarship.html)

For all students (excluding dual enrollment):

a. Campuses shall use the cumulative HS GPA that best aligns with the definition of grade point average provided above.

b. Campuses shall use the December 2020 GPA/7-term GPA/in-progress GPA should the final GPA not be available upon placement.

c. Should institutions use the December 2020 GPA/7-term GPA/in-progress GPA, campuses may select to not revisit placement upon receipt of the final GPA. The current practice is to stay with the original placement decision.

For dual enrollment students:

a. Admissions. Institutions have local authority to determine admission into dual enrollment program (i.e. continue with current policies and practices).

b. Placement. Students enrolling in a college-level math, reading, or writing course must meet appropriate placement requirements. Due the inclusion of high school GPA as a measure for corequisite placement in this pilot, students may enroll in college-level math, English, or reading with a 3.60 HS GPA or higher.

For students who have a HS GPA of 3.00-3.59 and no assessment scores such as ACT or SAT that would otherwise place the student into college-level courses, exceptions to enrollment in college-level math, reading, or English courses may be approved by the high school principal (or their designee, such as high school counselor) and the TBR Community College Vice President for Academic Affairs. Conditional enrollment may also be granted with plans to successfully pass the ACCUPLACER exam (or equivalent assessment determined by the institution).

For the three institutions piloting HS GPA cut scores of 2.80-3.59 (Chattanooga, Nashville, and Southwest), students may enroll in college-level math, English, or reading with a 2.80 HS GPA or higher.

6. What if students have HiSET/GED scores?

The HS GPA Pilot does not add any additional placement options other than HS GPA. Placement based on HiSET or GED scores is still not permitted, and thus the student must either be placed via another valid assessment or auto placed into learning support.