

Texas Education Agency
SB 1843
FAQ Document
Updated February 2, 2018

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Career Exploration Program (ASVAB CEP) is a free program offered by the Department of Defense that consists of:

- The ASVAB multiple aptitude test
- Interest Self-Assessment
- Career Exploration Tools

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 1843](#) (85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017) authorizes that each school year, each school district and open-enrollment charter school is required to provide students in grades 10 through 12 an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test and consult with a military recruiter.

To provide schools with information and resources, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) partnered with the Department of Defense to host a webinar, which was recorded and is available for viewing by following these links:

- [TEA and Department of Defense ASVAB Webinar recording link](#)
- [TEA and Department of Defense ASVAB Webinar presentation \(PDF\)](#)

Additional questions may be sent to: ASVAB@tea.texas.gov.

Section A: Assessment Questions	
QA-1: How does a school order materials to administer the ASVAB?	A: School personnel should review the ASVAB program website , which is maintained by the Department of Defense (DoD). Click the “Bring the ASVAB CEP to Your School” link on the webpage. Complete the request form and an Education Support Specialist (ESS) with the DoD will work with the school to plan, schedule and administer the ASVAB. The website provides information about administering the assessment.
QA-2: How long does it take to receive the materials once a school contacts the ESS and orders materials?	A: Timing is a factor of the local ESS schedule. Schools should ask the local ESS to collaborate and create a schedule for planning, ordering, administering and interpreting the test. School personnel should review the ASVAB program website which is maintained by the DoD. The website provides information about administering the assessment.

Section A: Assessment Questions	
QA-3: Are the assessments and the results available in print?	A: Yes. The assessments and results are available in digital and paper formats.
QA-4: SB 1843 states that schools must offer the opportunity to take the ASVAB to students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grade. What does “opportunity” mean?	A: Each year, school districts should schedule the test and communicate the time, place and date of the test to parents and students. The specific logistics are a local decision, but students must have the opportunity to take the assessment in the 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th grades each year.
QA-5: Does every student in 10 th - 12 th grade need to take the assessment beginning in 2017-2018? Are all students required to take the assessment?	A: The requirement begins for the current school year, 2017-2018. SB 1843 does not require that students take the ASVAB (or qualifying alternative assessment as defined in the statute). SB 1843 requires that each year, schools provide students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grades the <u>opportunity to take the ASVAB</u> (or qualifying alternative assessment).
QA-6: SB 1843 requires the assessment be offered to students in the 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th grades each year. Does this mean that a student will take it 3 times?	A: SB 1843 does <u>not</u> require students to take the ASVAB (or qualifying alternative assessment). SB 1843 requires that each year, schools provide students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grades the <u>opportunity to take the ASVAB</u> . Students may choose to that the ASVAB more than once.
QA-7: Can students take the ASVAB more than once?	A: A student may choose to take the assessment more than once. The DoD has re-test protocols in place for students who wish to take the ASVAB more than once. School personnel should review the ASVAB program website which is maintained by the DoD. The website provides information about administering the assessment.
QA-8: Is a school in compliance as long the test is offered to all students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grade each year?	A: A school is in compliance if they provide an ASVAB testing opportunity to all students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grade each year.
QA-9: Is it a requirement for students to test annually? For example, once a student tests in the 10 th grade would they test again in the 11 th and 12 th grade?	No, it is not a requirement for students to test annually. The only requirement is that a school provide students in the 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th grade the opportunity to test annually.
QA-10: Are accommodations available for students taking the test?	A: Yes, accommodations are available. School personnel should review the ASVAB program website which is maintained by the DoD. The website provides information about administering the assessment as well as contact information for the ESS, and an individual who will assist schools with administering the test. Once a school has contacted their local ESS, the

Section A: Assessment Questions	
	ESS will work with the school to plan, schedule and administer the ASVAB.
QA-11: How and when should schools share the results with students for interpretation	A: How and when to share the results with students is a local decision. School personnel should review the ASVAB program website , which is maintained by the DoD. Additionally, schools can review the counselor guide for information regarding student interpretation of results.
QA-12: Who helps schools interpret the results?	A: The DoD provides ESS to assist schools with administering the assessment and interpreting results. To find the ESS, school personnel should call 1-800-323-0513 from a landline or obtain the information from the ASVAB program website .
QA-13: May students younger than 10 th grade take the assessment?	A: No. The DoD has established that the assessment is for students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grades only.
QA-14: If a student begins the ASVAB but changes schools can the student complete it at another school or must they start over again?	A: The ASVAB test can be completed in one sitting. It is not a multi-day test. If a student takes the ASVAB in 10 th grade at one school and moves to another school, the student may take the test again at the new school, if the student so chooses. SB 1843 does not require students to take the ASVAB. SB 1843 requires that each year, schools provide students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grades the <u>opportunity</u> to take the ASVAB.
QA-15: If a student opts to not take the test, what does a school do?	A: SB 1843 does not require students to take the ASVAB (or qualifying alternative assessment). SB 1843 requires that each year, schools provide students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grades the <u>opportunity</u> to take the ASVAB.
QA-16: Our school stopped offering the ASVAB because we did not have students who wanted to take the assessment. If nobody signs up for the assessment, should we continue to offer it?	A: Yes, the <u>opportunity</u> to take the assessment must be offered each year, to students in the 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th grades, as required by SB 1843, even if no students sign up to take the test.
QA-17: We have a very small student high school population, if we provide an opportunity for students to test and no students are interested in taking the ASVAB, will we be out of compliance?	A: No, you will not be out of compliance in this scenario. SB 1843 requires that each year, schools provide students in the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grades the <u>opportunity</u> to take the ASVAB (or qualifying alternative assessment).
QA-18: If a school has already given the ASVAB earlier in the year (October) for 11 th and 12 th	A: Yes, to be compliant, the <u>opportunity</u> to take the ASVAB (or qualifying alternative assessment)

Section A: Assessment Questions	
graders, does the school need to schedule the test for 10th grade students to be compliant with the law this year (2017-2018)?	must be provided to students in 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grades.
QA-19: What are the scheduling requirements for schools when offering the ASVAB?	<p>A: School districts and open-enrollment charter schools must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule the ASVAB during normal school hours; and • Schedule the ASVAB at a time that limits conflict with extracurricular activities. <p>Additionally, SB 1843 requires that school districts and open enrollment charter schools communicate the date, time and location of testing to students and their parent/guardians.</p>
QA-20: Is the ASVAB multiple choice?	A: Yes, the format of the ASVAB assessment is multiple choice.
QA-21: SB 1843 states that schools may utilize an alternative test. Which tests qualify as an alternative test?	<p>A school district or open-enrollment charter school may elect not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test only if the district or school provides an alternative test that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assesses a student’s aptitude for success in a career field other than a career field that requires postsecondary education; • is free to administer requires minimal training and support of district or school faculty and staff to administer the test; and • provides the student with a professional interpretation of the test results that allows the student to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ explore occupations that are consistent with the student’s interests and skills; and ○ develop strategies to attain the student’s career goals.
QA-22: Which assessments would meet the requirements for a qualifying alternative assessment?	<p>A: SB 1843 requires a qualifying alternative assessment to meet the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess a student's aptitude for success in a career field other than a career field that requires postsecondary education; • Be free to administer;

Section A: Assessment Questions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require minimal training and support of district or school faculty and staff to administer the test; and • Provide the student with a professional interpretation of the test results that allows the student to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore occupations that are consistent with the student's interests and skills; and, • Develop strategies to attain the student's career goals. <p>Districts should review the requirements listed above to determine if an assessment meets the requirements for a qualifying alternative assessment.</p>
QA-23: Where can schools find a list of qualifying alternative assessments?	TEA does not provide input regarding specific assessments that qualify as alternative assessments. Schools must review the requirements of the SB 1843 and determine if a particular alternate assessment meets the requirements. See QA-22 for additional information.
QA-24: How long does it take for students to complete the assessment?	A: The paper assessment takes three hours. The computer assessment takes an average of approximately 1.5 hours, but students may take longer if needed.
QA-25: Can the online test be taken on a PC, Mac, and Chromebook?	A: Yes. The DoD provides an ESS to assist schools with administering the assessment and interpreting results. To find the ESS, school personnel should call 1-800-323-0513 from a landline or obtain the information from the ASVAB program website . The assessment requires using Internet Explorer or Chrome browsers.
QA-26: Will the ESS arrange proctors or will the school be responsible for providing proctors?	A: Yes, the ESS can help find proctors or train school personnel as proctors. Schools should contact their ESS who will assist with administering the assessment and interpreting results. To find an ESS, school personnel should call 1-800-323-0513 from a landline or obtain the information from the ASVAB program website .

Section A: Assessment Questions	
QA-27: Does the campus need to choose either the paper or the online assessment or can both be used for different student needs?	A: No, the campus does not have to choose one or the other. Schools may choose a combination of paper and online testing.

Section B: The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (ASVAB CEP) Questions	
QB-1: Who may we contact about presenting to parents at a district conference?	A: The DoD provides ESS to assist schools with administering the assessment and interpreting results. To find an ESS, school personnel should call 1-800-323-0513 from a landline or obtain the information from the ASVAB program website . The ESS may also support school personnel in preparing a presentation that school personnel may present to parents within the district. The ASVAB program website which is maintained by the DoD, contains all the information that school personnel would need to create a presentation for parents.
QB-2: Where can a school find ASVAB marketing materials, brochures and other materials for parents and students?	A: Materials are available on the ASVAB program website . Once at the website, click on the Resources link at the top of the webpage.

Section C: ASVAB Data and Results	
QC-1: Is the school required to provide the interpretation of scores to students?	A: It is a best practice to provide an interpretation of scores to students. SB 1843 states that any qualifying alternative assessment offered must provide, “the student with a professional interpretation of the test results”. While this statement is in reference to qualifying alternative assessments, the ASVAB Career Exploration Program provides detailed individual assessment results for students.
QC-2: What type of data will schools submit to TEA as "proof" that they provided the opportunity to test if no one signs up to take it?	A: SB 1843 requires that no later than August 1 st , TEA publish a list of school districts and open enrollment charter schools that elect not to provide the ASVAB assessment during the previous school year. There is no requirement for TEA to collect any other data regarding the ASVAB. TEA will release a “To the Administrator Addressed Letter” in April of 2018 with more details.
QC-3: What reporting information will be required by TEA from districts?	A: TEA does not require reporting from districts.

Section C: ASVAB Data and Results	
	SB 1843 requires that no later than August 1 st , TEA publish a list of school districts and open enrollment charter schools who elect not to provide the ASVAB assessment during the previous school year. There is no requirement for TEA to collect any other data regarding the ASVAB. TEA will release a “To the Administrator Addressed Letter” in April of 2018 with more details about the list.
QC-4: Are there any resources for students regarding the ASVAB?	A: The Army maintains a website www.march2success.com that offers test preparation and resources. The ASVAB program website also contains sample questions and information for students.
QC-5: Will districts have access to all the ASVAB data for the schools in their district?	A: The DoD will provide data to the students and the school that the students attend.
QC-6: How long does a student’s data remain in the ASVAB system?	A: The data remains in the ASVAB system for two years.
QC-7: Is there any change in the school’s ability to not release scores to the military?	A: No, there is no change. School personnel should review the ASVAB program website which is maintained by the DoD. The website provides information about administering the assessment and the options for student results. Specific information about recruiter contact can be found on page 14 of The Counselor Guide , which is located in the “Quick Links” found on the “Enter As An Educator” page of the website.
QC-8: If a student receives a military qualifying score on the ASVAB, would the campus and district be able to count the student as meeting the CCMR Military Indicator in the Texas Accountability Program?	A: All questions regarding which and how indicators will be used in the new accountability system should be directed to Performance Reporting at performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov .
QC-9: Will the post-test interpretation spreadsheet be useful to establish Career Ready for Accountability purposes?	A: All questions regarding which and how indicators will be used in the new accountability system should be directed to Performance Reporting at performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov .

Section D: Miscellaneous	
QD-1: Will attendees of this webinar receive continuing education credit?	A: No, TEA is not offering continuing education credit for attendees of the ASVAB webinar.

Section D: Miscellaneous	
QD-2: What does a sufficient notice of the testing opportunity look like (email, website announcement, etc.)	A: It is a local decision to decide the best method to communicate the assessment date, location and time to parents/guardians and students. The notice should be widespread enough that all parents/guardians and students can receive notice about the assessment. The ASVAB Program General Resources webpage has examples of announcements for schools.
QD-3: Is there a listserv for the ASVAB?	A: TEA does not have authority over the ASVAB and does not maintain a listserv. The DoD does not maintain a listserv, but questions and comments can be submitted to the DoD about the ASVAB by utilizing the “Contact Us” button at the top of the ASVAB program website .
QD-4: What is exactly meant by providing the opportunity to talk to a recruiter? Is having recruiters available at lunch to speak to students sufficient?	A: SB 1843 states that each year, students in the 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th grades have the opportunity to consult with a military recruiter. This means that schools must provide this opportunity to students. The structure for how this is done is a local decision.

Acronym Glossary
ASVAB – The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
ASVAB CEP - The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Career Exploration Program
DoD – The Department of Defense
ESS – Education Support Specialist
SB 1843 – Senate Bill 1843