



Benchmark 5: Academic Rigor and Readiness

Victory Early College High School

Benchmark 5: Academic Readiness

The Early College High School shall administer a Texas Success Initiative (TSI) college placement exam (as defined by TAC §4.53) to all accepted students to assess college readiness, design individual instructional plans, and enable students to begin college courses based on their performance.

Victory Early College High School TSI Support Classes:

- Freshman Year – College Seminar 1
- Sophomore Year – College Seminar 2
- Junior Year – College Seminar 3

College Seminar 1, 2, 3 Classes

TSI Objective

- Use student's TSI diagnostic report to create individual support plans
- Offer tutoring opportunities
- Review materials
- Set goals and timelines for future re-testing date(s)

College Seminar 1 – TSI Preparation

- All freshmen are scheduled into College Seminar in the fall semester.
- All freshmen take the TSI in November of their freshmen year.

College Seminar 1 – TSI Preparation

- The diagnostic results are then used to focus on the content areas that need improvement.
- The instructor will track the student's progress on assigned content areas and allow the student to retest once the student has completed the predetermined preparation.
- The student and teacher will continue the procedure until the student is successful.

College Seminar 2 and 3 – TSI Preparation

- Sophomores and juniors who are not qualified on TSI are scheduled into College Seminar 2 (sophomores) or College Seminar 3 (juniors).
- Instructors continue to provide preparation using the diagnostic reports to guide the remediation. However, the instructors can also use other online resources.
- Students and instructors set remediation goals and timelines before retesting.

Best Practices for TSI Success

- We do not say the student passed or failed—we say the student qualified or did not qualify. The words we choose to use make a big difference in our students' mindsets.
- We do not isolate the College and Career Readiness Standards tested on TSI to the TSI test alone—we ensure that the standards are part of instruction in all the early college classrooms.

Best Practices for TSI Success

- Data sharing is very important. We use a shared spreadsheet to keep updated scores for each student so that all instructors know where each student stands on each section of the TSI.
- The students request their waivers to test from their College Seminar instructors. These instructors have all the data needed to ensure that a student is well prepared before granting them permission to retest.
- At the beginning of the school year, parents of freshmen and non-qualified sophomores and juniors are invited to a meeting titled “Steps to Starting College Classes,” where the TSI is explained in detail.

Best Practices for TSI Success

- Student/Parent/Administrator/Teacher conferences are held at the end of the student's freshman, sophomore, and junior years.
 - The teacher provides the resources given in class as well as specific class time dedicated to TSI prep/remediation.
 - The student provides the test results and diagnostic reports he/she has been using to guide remediation.
 - The administrator provides the test results received from the student and the TSI summer program information.