



2024-2025 TSIC 11th Grade Mentor Agenda for Mentors

The agenda is used by TSIC Coaches to discuss goals and is made available for mentors to use as a an extra resource tool during mentoring sessions.

COACH INTRODUCTION: Be certain to introduce yourself as their College Success Coach. Let them know why you are meeting with them and your role vs. their mentor. **Remind them you are not their mentor.** Your role as College Success Coach is to help them stay academically qualified, stay on track to their pathway to college, and be prepared to apply successfully and enroll in college.

Quarter 1

Back to School Event Workshop & Coaching Meeting Topics

1. **Welcome** students back and introduce yourself. Maybe give a fun fact about yourself.
2. **Coaches to have students fill out sign in sheet.** Have them sign in on the Back-to-School (B2S) Workshop sign in sheet.
3. **Provide quick program stats** of TSIC Results and how the program makes a difference.
 - a. High school graduation rate for TSIC is @ **97%**, non TSIC are at 71%
 - b. TSIC college enrollment rate @ **92%**, non TSIC are at 50%
 - c. TSIC college graduation rate @ **70%**, non TSIC are at 29%

Clubs, Activities, Sports, & Volunteering

Being involved in clubs, volunteering, tutoring, or participating in athletics, band, chorus, or theater can show leadership and is often considered when applying to college or university. It also helps when applying for other scholarships.

Having leadership experience:

- Shows a willingness and ability to take on responsibility
- Indicates that your peers believe in the student's success and leadership ability
- Revels confidence and courage to be a leader
- Demonstrates dedication and commitment

ACT, PSAT, & SAT Test Prep

Practice questions, tips, study guides, and tests for the ACT and SAT.

- For SAT Prep: <https://learn.khanacademy.org>
- For ACT Prep: <https://www.act.org/>

Register for either the SAT or ACT to retake before December of this year. If you can, retake them BOTH in your junior or senior year after additional test prep to improve your test scores.

- SAT Test Dates: sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates
- ACT Test Dates: www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html

Tip: If a student has already completed Algebra II, the student can elect to take either or both tests in the Fall. If the student is currently taking Algebra II, suggest scheduling either or both tests after the Winter break.

Quarter 1, cont'd

What about Fee Waivers for tests and college applications?

Students who are coded eligible in FOCUS for Free/Reduced Lunch qualify to receive SAT/ACT Test Fee Waivers. If you believe you are eligible, you can complete a waiver request form found by speaking with their guidance office. Students may receive 2 Fee Waivers per SAT and 4 Fee Waivers per ACT Test (for lifetime).

TIP: Students who use Fee Waivers on SAT/ACT are also eligible to use a Fee Waiver for College Applications.

National Merit Scholarship PSAT test prep qualifier: If you earn a high score in your junior year for the PSAT, you may qualify to receive the National Merit Scholarship. A student can take the PSAT once per school year and is usually scheduled during school hours. The test will last for 2 hours and 45 minutes. www.nationalmerit.org

College and Career Center

The College and Career Center is the hub of information and support for students and families. Your College and Career Center support students and families to access resources, explore opportunities and work collaboratively on:

- Career pathway and major exploration
- FAFSA Assistance
- College exploration and match
- Application development and submission
- SAT/ACT preparation resources
- College Fair and admission events
- Financial and scholarship planning
- Essay preparation and review

TSIC Virtual Mentoring Options

Virtual mentoring is available for:

- A. Full time virtual students.
- B. Students who do not have a mentor **temporarily** assigned to them.
- C. Students that missed a meeting or have fallen behind mentor sessions.



Attend virtual **Group Mentoring** held on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons or complete up to 3 **Career Conversations**

by going to <https://pinellaseducation.org/students/> and click on **Links & Resources**.

Quarter 2

Additional Scholarships to work towards

Having volunteer community service hours helps you to receive additional scholarships and looks better on your college applications as well as high PSAT, SAT, and ACT test scores. Some of those scholarships include Bright Futures and the National Merit Scholarship.

Bright Futures Scholarship – Community service hours and/or paid work hours are required to qualify for every level of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. ACT and SAT test scores will also determine the level of Bright Futures you may qualify for, in addition to work or community service hours served.

Hours needed to qualify for each level:

Florida Academic Scholars:

- 100 hours community service hours,
- Or 100 paid work hours,
- Or 100 hours of a combination of community and paid work hours.

Florida Medallion Scholars:

- 75 hours community service hours,
- Or 100 paid work hours,
- Or 100 hours of a combination of community and paid work hours.

Florida Gold Seal (CAPE or Vocational) Scholars:

- 30 hours community service hours,
- Or 100 paid work hours,
- Or 100 hours of a combination of community and paid work hours.

For more information, go to: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>

Student's Responsibility:

- Maintain C's or better
- Meet with Mentor 2x a month & attend required coaching sessions each semester
- Remain Crime & Drug free
- Refrain from receiving referrals
- Miss less than 10 days of unexcused absences
- Check email regularly and respond to coach

Email your coach or TSIC@pinellaseducation.org if contact information changes or has questions.

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Quarter 3

ACT, PSAT, & SAT Test Prep

Remind students to register for and take either/both the SAT and ACT this semester.

- Register to take SAT or ACT in 2nd semester
- Contact School Counselor to obtain fee waiver before registering to take ACT or SAT

Practice questions, tips, study guides, and tests for the ACT and SAT.

- For SAT Prep: <https://learn.khanacademy.org>
- For ACT Prep: <https://www.act.org/>

Register for either the SAT or ACT to retake before December of this year. If you can, retake them BOTH in your junior or senior year after additional test prep to improve your test scores.

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Take Stock in Children Scholarship Specifics - Reminder

- Your TSIC scholarship is called a **Florida Prepaid Plan**, it is how schools will invoice or ask for the money using your SSN.
- The scholarship is not a "full ride" plan and will not be enough to cover all of the college expenses such as: Housing, meal plans and additional fees. Your scholarship pays for tuition only.
- You do not own your scholarship and are considered the Beneficiary, the Foundation is the owner of the plan.
- The scholarship will not be enough to cover all of the college expenses such as: Housing, meal plans and additional fees. *Your scholarship pays for tuition only.*
- You must take at least 1 college course within 15 months of high school graduation.
- Your scholarship is designed to have the most value to you at an in-state college or in-state university.
- You may use your scholarship at a private or out-of-state college/university, but you will only receive about \$100 per credit hour. Often times, these schools will cost over \$25k PER semester.
- Upon high school graduation, students will receive a 60-credit college level plan. Once they run out, they are eligible to apply for up to 60 additional college level credits.
- University tuition rates are almost double than college tuition rates.
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Example: If a student attends a Florida based public university for 15 credits, the university will use up approximately 28 credits from the scholarship plan to cover the tuition. At SPC, only 15 credits would be used from the plan because you have a FPP College Tuition Rate Plan.

For general questions about your plan, refer to the **Scholarship Q&A Packet** located on <https://pinellaseducation.org/tsic> or email TSIC.Grad@pinellaseducation.org .

TIP: The College and Career Center, at your school, can help support students with finding additional financial assistance and resource opportunities. You will want to make sure to visit your location and ask how you can get started on applying for the additional scholarships and resources.

Quarter 3, cont'd

Find a Community Service or Volunteer Opportunity

Why is Community Service Valued?

- Colleges value applicants who engage in volunteer work because it provides a fuller understanding of the applicant and indicates they are likely to contribute to the campus community.
- Students can learn leadership, problem-solving, time management, communication, and collaboration skills while volunteering.
- It shows a college where a student shares the school's values or mission.
- Students should find a community service or volunteer opportunity that interests them so if feels more exciting.
- Ask a School Counselor for a list of places that are looking for volunteers.

Student's Responsibility:

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Quarter 4

Summer Goals for Your Upcoming Senior Year

Next fall, deadlines are going to be fast approaching. Within the first semester of your senior year, you will be expected to complete your FAFSA, apply to colleges, take your ACT/SAT, write college essays, and visit colleges, carry a full courseload, and stay involved in your extra-curricular activities.

You can reduce some of your upcoming senior stress by proactively working on some of the responsibilities now and over your summer break.

You do not need to wait until school starts to do the following activities:

1. Visit colleges and universities to take tours, if possible.
2. Begin filling out your college applications. Note the differences between who has rolling admissions, early admissions, and regular admissions decisions. Also note that you could obtain a fee waiver for the application fees if you qualified for the SAT/ACT fee waivers. See your guidance counselor or advisor for all waivers.
3. Consider who you will ask for letters of recommendation and give them plenty of time to respond to your request.
4. Note the type of essays you need to write and begin working on them.
5. Continue practicing for the SAT/ACT and retake it early in fall. The colleges and universities will take the highest scores from all of your test scores.
6. Add important volunteer hours to your portfolio for Bright Futures!
7. Create a list of scholarships you will and have applied for with the corresponding deadlines.

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Quarter 4 cont'd

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