



## 2024-2025 TSIC 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Agenda for Mentors

The agenda is used by TSIC Coaches to discuss goals and is made available for mentors to use as 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 & Senior Activation Forms

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%

#### Take Stock in Children Scholarship Specifics

- 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](mailto: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 1 Cont'd**

### **Senior College Prep Workshop – REQUIRED**

Seniors need to plan to attend the workshop. Inform your work supervisor, athletic coach, or whomever is necessary that it is important for you to attend the workshop. Be sure to give them adequate time to make other arrangements.

**FAFSA Assistance | FSA Assistance | Gift Basket Giveaways | Gift Card Giveaways | Speak with admissions**

#### **November 14, 2024**

4:00pm-5:30pm – FAFSA Lab building NM room 101 – receive financial aid assistance from financial aid professionals to assist you with your FAFSA or to create your FSA ID. Receive assistance even if you plan to attend another school.

*The lab is optional portion of the workshop is optional.*

5:00pm Registration, Senior Sponsor Photos, and table browsing (tables to visit include: FUSE, PATHE, FAAME, WOW, Financial Aid, Student Life and Leadership, Summer of Success class, Admissions, and Student Support Services)

6:00pm Program Starts (**try to arrive no later than 5:30**)

7:00pm Program scheduled to end with a 30-minute window for students/families to remain for questions.  
Senior college Prep Workshop cont'd.

7:00pm – 8:00 – FAFSA Lab building NM room 101 open after the event for follow-up questions

#### **SPC – Clearwater Campus**

2465 Drew Street, Clearwater, FL 33765

Arts Auditorium (AA building) on the most northwest side of the parking lot

SPC is waiving their application fee but you must stop by their booth for a couple of minutes to provide them with your name and waiver information. Even if you are planning to attend a university, take advantage of the SPC waiver in case plans change.

#### **Apply EARLY to your top university choices**

- Apply early to your top choices when wanting to attend a university or college.
- Early decision deadlines are as early as October 15<sup>th</sup> and as late as December 1st. Complete all early decision applications first!
- Explore their application process. Look at their applications, essay/biographical requirements, average GPA, exam requirements, recommendation requirements, etc.
- Check out the virtual tours at websites of any colleges you are interested in attending.
- Log-in with them as this will get them to mail or email you additional information.
- If you feel very strongly about 1 or 2 schools, consider applying for early admission. These deadlines often close in the Fall. Check with that particular college for the dates.
- Be sure to have your scores sent to every school you may want to attend. You can authorize to have your updated SAT or ACT scores sent to the schools you applied to. Don't wait to apply because you aren't happy with your scores or still need to take the tests.

## Quarter 1 Cont'd

### 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

You will want to make sure you definitely visit in your Senior year, as they can help you with additional scholarship and grant opportunities, along with several other areas that can help you be more successful upon high school graduation.

As a Senior, you should start applying for additional scholarships because your TSIC Scholarship is not a "Full Ride" scholarship. Your scholarship pays for tuition only. The fees at a university can cost as much as tuition or more, plus books, housing and food.

### **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](mailto:TSIC@pinellaseducation.org) if contact information changes or has questions.

### FPP Senior Activation Forms

#### **Directions for Seniors to read carefully:**

- You are going to be asked to provide a lot of data to complete your Senior Activation Form. We need to collect this data now, so we have enough time to process it and have your scholarship plan available to you before you graduate high school.
- You **MUST** fill it out accurately and upload a picture of your driver's license or state ID. If you do not have one, you can choose to upload another listed document.
  - If you don't have an ID, call now and ask your parent for a picture of theirs. The ID is to provide proof of residency.
  - If you are unable to provide an ID at this time, there is an option to have PCS supply a copy of your high school transcript, but this may delay the activation process.
- You must provide an accurate SSN because this is how your college will invoice FPP. If unsure of your SSN, call your parent/guardian now and ask them. As a last resort, you may need to type in all 000-00-0000 and **PROMISE to call your coach or email [tsic@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:tsic@pinellaseducation.org) requesting a call back to provide your SSN over the phone.** We will update your activation form manually.
- Not providing a SSN will result in your scholarship not being activated and you will not have your college paid for. The SSN is how colleges ask Florida Prepaid for the tuition payment to be sent to them.

## Quarter 1 Cont'd

### **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.

Career Conversation



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**.

### **Best Practice Tips:**

1. See who is in your meeting that may require a NC / Appeal meeting.
2. Make sure to have students pull up their confirmation email and tell them that is where they can access links.
3. We want parents to have a copy of all coaching forms so they can be informed of expectations and opportunities or deadlines approaching. **Make sure students are adding their parent's email address on their form.**

**END OF COACHING SESSION. HAVE STUDENT SCAN QR CODE NOW TO COMPLETE THEIR COACHING FORM.**

## Quarter 2

### **FASFA**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form filled out by students wanting to attend college. The seniors graduating in 2024 should apply for the 2024-2025 school year when it opens up in December 2023 by going to <https://studentaid.gov/>. Be sure to attend financial aid workshops being offered at your school and SPC.

Seniors should apply to their choice universities as early as October and it is okay to submit their FAFSA afterwards. Do not wait to submit the application because the FAFSA can't be submitted until December.

### **Additional Scholarships**

#### **Senior Scholarships offered through the Foundation – opens 9/30/2023**

Each year, the Foundation awards approximately \$700,000 in scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to high school graduating seniors in the Pinellas County Public School system. Students only need to fill out one application to match their needs and future interests with over 120 scholarship opportunities.

<https://pinellaseducation.org/initiatives/multiple-pathways/scholarships/>

**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/>

## Quarter 2 Cont'd

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

- SAT Test Dates: [sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates](https://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates)
- ACT Test Dates: [www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html](https://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.

### **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.

**TIP:** For studying the SAT's, Khan Academy is a great place to start because they work together with College Board - the maker of the SAT test.

They will offer you personalized lessons based on your needs that require development to help you improve your scores on test day. Did you know that studying for your SAT for 6 hours on Khan Academy has been linked to a 90-point increased average on the test scores?!

<https://blog.khanacademy.org/studying-for-the-sat-for-20-hours-on-khan-academy/>

**FAFSA - Coaches: Main Goals for you to follow through on:** It is a requirement to update HF when the student completes the FAFSA. Try to encourage student to upload the FAFSA confirmation page, SAR, or screenshot of confirmation email.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form filled out by students wanting to attend college. The seniors graduating in 2025 should apply for the 2025-2026 school by going to <https://studentaid.gov/>.

Be sure to attend a financial aid workshops being offered. Not sure when the workshops are being offered? You can ask your onsite College and Career Center or ask your guidance counselor.

For grant reporting purposes, we must have proof seniors have applied for their FAFSA. Upload a screenshot of your FAFSA confirmation email or download your Student Aid Report (SAR) from the FAFSA site now to upload.

**If the student doesn't have one completed, they will need to do so by next semester and upload proof or email it to you.**

## Quarter 2 Cont'd

### 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](mailto:TSIC@pinellaseducation.org) if contact information changes or has questions.

### **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 3

### Take Stock in Children Scholarship Specifics

- 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 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.
- You must take at least 1 college course within 15 months of high school graduation. For example, if graduating in June 2024, you have until August 2025 to be enrolled at a trade school, college or university.
- Your scholarship is designed to have the most value to you at an in-state college or in-state university. You will have significant less financial support at a private or out-of-state college.
- 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, these schools will cost over \$25k PER semester.
- Upon high school graduation, students will receive a 60-credit college level tuition plan. Once the plan runs out, the student is eligible to apply for up to 60 additional college level credits towards a bachelor's degree.
- University tuition rates are almost double college tuition rates.

**Example: If a student attends a Florida based public university for 15 credits (an average of 5 classes), 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](mailto:TSIC.Grad@pinellaseducation.org).

### Final Sponsor TY letter

This is the final sponsor letter seniors will write. Students will write 2-3 paragraphs of 3-5 sentences each. In the letter, please let your sponsor know:

- What your plans are now that you are graduating high school.
- Express your words of gratitude now that you are starting the next chapter in your life
- How has a mentor helped you?
- What was something you learned or benefited from by having this scholarship that you may not have otherwise known?
- What college are you planning to attend?
- What career do you think you might want to have?

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## Quarter 4

### Coaches: Main Goals for you to follow through on:

1. Thorough Exit Meeting Event with a signed attendance sheet
2. It is a requirement to update HF when the student completes the FAFSA. Try to encourage students to upload the FAFSA confirmation page, SAR, or screenshot of confirmation email.

### FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form filled out by students wanting to attend college. The seniors graduating in 2025 should apply for the 2025-2026 school by going to <https://studentaid.gov/>.

Be sure to attend a financial aid workshop being offered. Not sure when the workshops are being offered? You can ask your onsite College and Career Center or ask your guidance counselor.

For grant reporting purposes, we must have proof seniors have applied for their FAFSA. Upload a screenshot of your FAFSA confirmation email or download your Student Aid Report (SAR) from the FAFSA site now to upload.

*If the student doesn't have one completed, they will need to be pulled out of class and start one in the Career Center in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.*

### **Final Senior Exit Meeting - use a Senior Exit sign in sheet to be handed in for a workshop.**

**Coaches, print off the Q&A Scholarship Packet and hand out during CSC meeting.**

### Top Q&A Scholarship facts

Find full copy at <https://pinellaseducation.org/tsic>

Scroll down to TSIC College Students and click on "SCHOLARSHIP Q&A PACKET"

1. Your TSIC scholarship is called a Florida PrePaid plan, it is how schools will invoice or ask for the money.
2. You do not own your scholarship, the Foundation does, and you are considered a beneficiary of the Florida PrePaid plan.
3. The scholarship will not be enough to cover all the college expenses such as: Housing, meal plans and additional fees. Your scholarship pays for tuition only.
  - a. **Example:** If you take 15 credits (5 classes) from SPC, you will use 15 credits from your scholarship plan. If you take 15 credits from a university (USF, FSU, UF etc.), you will use approximately 28 credits from your plan to cover the higher cost of tuition.
  - b. Your scholarship is not a "Full Ride" scholarship plan.
4. Your scholarship is designed to have the most value to you at an in-state college or in-state university.
5. You have 15 months after high school graduation to enroll in college. For example, if you graduate high school in May 2024, you will need to be enrolled in at least one college/university class by Fall 2025.
6. If joining the military, you will need to fill out a military deferment form and provide enlistment papers. Email [TSIC.GRAD@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:TSIC.GRAD@pinellaseducation.org).
7. If attending a private or out of state school, you will need to email [TSIC.GRAD@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:TSIC.GRAD@pinellaseducation.org) to request a transfer form filled out. We will need the school's name, address, and FAFSA school code. You will be eligible for up to \$106.29 per credit hour as "restricted funds" only. Your school cannot ask for all of your scholarship value upfront as "unrestricted funds". Often times, these schools will cost over \$25k PER semester.
  1. Your college support team are happy to review your financial aid award letter to make sure you won't have any financial surprises. Every year, there are students that do not realize they need a private loan or were put on an aggressive payment plan to cover the balance and unable to register for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

2. If you have a debt at a school, most schools will not release an official transcript. When registering for another school, they will require an official transcript and many schools will not allow you to attend more than one semester without an official transcript as a degree seeking student.
3. Do not let this happen to you. Let us help you and review your award letter.
8. May use scholarship at a trade school.
9. Must complete the Annual Update each summer by June 30<sup>th</sup> or you risk losing your scholarship. Your first annual update will not be due until next summer.

For questions about your scholarship plan be sure to email [TSIC.GRAD@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:TSIC.GRAD@pinellaseducation.org) and a college support team specialist will respond.

### **TSIC Virtual Mentoring Options**

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