



2024-2025 TSIC 9th & 10th Grade 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.

Semester 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

The PSAT testing is in October and all 9th & 10th graders are registered automatically. Check your guidance office for the test dates.

National Merit Scholarship 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.

Free ACT & SAT test prep is available at: <https://www.act.org/>

Semester 1, cont'd

College and Career Center at your school

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

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.

National Merit Scholarship

If you want to try it, begin preparing for the PSAT in October. If you earn a high score in your junior year for the PSAT, you may qualify to receive the National Merit Scholarship. It is best to not wait until your junior year to take the PSAT for the first time. <https://www.nationalmerit.org>

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.

For more information, go to: <https://floridabrightfutures.gov/>

Steps to apply for Bright Futures: https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/bf_brochure.pdf

Hours needed to qualify for each level:

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS):

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

Semester 1, cont'd

Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS):

- 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 (GSC or GSV):

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

High School Resume

A high school resume gives colleges a snapshot of a student's accomplishments, extracurricular activities/club involvement, hobbies, and work history. Example of how to create a resume, go to: <https://drive.google.com/file/>

Students' 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 per semester
- Check email regularly and respond to coach
- Email coach or TSIC@pinellaseducation.org if contact information changes or you have 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**.

Semester 2

College & Careers

It is never too early to begin exploring possible career paths. It can help you to know what might interest you, so you know what type of schools to apply to in your senior year.

1. As you gather information about colleges and universities, keep it all in a notebook or centralized location.
2. Explore majors, courses of studies, and certifications offered.
3. Gather information on the admission requirements.
 - <https://www.floridashines.org/>
 - <https://gettherefl.com/>
 - <https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/default.aspx>

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is money to help pay for college or trade school and this includes money you don't have to pay back and money that you do.

There are 4 types of financial aid:

1. Grants (Ex: Federal Pell Grant)
2. Scholarships (Ex: TSIC or Bright Futures – privately and state funded)
3. Work-Study (Federal Work-Study provides part-time jobs allowing students to earn money to help pay for education.)
4. Loans (Money you pay back with interest)

Financial aid can come from federal, state, and private resources. To learn more about financial aid, please visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>

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 be 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, 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 college tuition rates.

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 an FPP College Tuition Rate Plan.

For general questions about your plan, refer to the **TSIC Scholarship FAQ's** located on <https://pinellaseducation.org/tsic> or email TSIC.Grad@pinellaseducation.org for a PDF copy.

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.

Semester 2, 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 it feels more exciting.
- Ask a School Counselor for a list of places that are looking for volunteers.

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