



Pinellas Education Foundation

2025-2026 TSIC 11th Grade Agenda

Quarter 1

Back to School Workshop & Quarter 1 Review

Program stats of TSIC Results and how the program makes a difference in student's lives:

- High school graduation rate for TSIC is **98%**, non TSIC are at 72%
- TSIC college enrollment rate is **91%**, non TSIC are at 52%
- TSIC college graduation rate is **73%**, non TSIC are at 29%

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 no more than 5 days of unexcused absences each quarter
- Check email regularly and respond to coach

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

College and Career Center

The College and Career Center is the hub of information and support for students and families. Working in collaboration with school counselors, the College and Career Readiness Coordinators provide individualized and targeted assistance to navigate the college process.

- Career pathway and major exploration
- 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
- FAFSA assistance

<p>Annual College and Career Fair Countryside High October 6, 2025, from 6:00-7:30pm</p>

Quarter 1 continued

ACT, SAT, and CLT

Registration and Fee Waivers

- Students should register early for the SAT, ACT, or CLT to secure the preferred test dates and locations.
- Ask the school counselor for a test fee waiver before registering.
- Students who are eligible for Free/Reduced lunch can receive 2 SAT & 4 ACT fee waivers
- They may also request college application fee waivers if they used the SAT & ACT waivers

Test Prep Resources

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

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

Test Dates and Registration Links

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
- CLT Test Dates: www.cltexam.com

PSAT Test Prep

Practice questions, tips, study guides, and tests for the SAT go to:

PSAT/NMSQT Information: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>

PSAT/NMSQT Practice: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/preparing>

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

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.

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.

Quarter 1 continued

Khan Academy 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/>

Mentor Meetings: In person, TSIC App, or virtual options

As a TSIC student, you are expected to meet with your mentor during your lunch period at least twice per month. We understand that sometimes students may miss a meeting or may not yet have a mentor assigned.

For students who are not attending a traditional Pinellas County Schools campus, or who need additional support, we also offer virtual group mentoring sessions after school. These sessions are a great way to stay connected, ask questions, and continue working toward your goals.

TSIC Virtual Mentoring Options are available for:

1. Full time virtual students.
2. Students who don't attend a traditional PCS school.
3. Students who do not have a mentor **temporarily** assigned to them.
4. Students that missed a meeting or have fallen behind mentor sessions.

***The virtual sessions are not meant to replace a currently assigned mentor.**

[Virtual mentoring link - CLICK HERE](#)

Quarter 2

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: [Click here to download a template](#) or email TSIC@pinellaseducation.org and ask for the **Creating a Student Resume** document shown in Quarter 2 of the coaching agenda.

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.
- 3.5 GPA

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.
- 3.0 GPA

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.
- 2.75 GPA

For more information, go to: <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/>



Quarter 2 continued

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>

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Quarter 3

Staying academically competitive

- Staying academically competitive; take at least 2 honors and 2 AP courses in the 11th grade.
- Attend a college tour with your parents.
- Review or create your high school resume. Be sure to include sports inside and outside of school or if you hold a position in a club, especially an officer position.
- Plan to take your ACT, PSAT, SAT, or CLT in your junior year and retake it if you desire a higher score.
- Make a list of colleges you would like to attend and go to their websites and take a virtual tour.

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
<https://collegeinitiative.net/>
- 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.

Financial aid and Scholarships

- Students should be looking for additional grants and scholarship opportunities.
- Research what is available locally. Discuss with your School Counselor.
- Check colleges/universities/ technical and vocational schools' websites for scholarships.
- Explore Grants and Scholarships offered through the State of Florida
at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>
- Find scholarships using this
 - <https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/Toolkit/find-scholarships.aspx>
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/financialaid>

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Quarter 4

Top TSIC Scholarship Facts

- **Scholarship Type:** Your TSIC scholarship is a Florida Prepaid Plan (FPP). Colleges and universities will use your Social Security Number (SSN) to invoice the plan for tuition costs.
- **Tuition-Only Coverage:** This is not a full-ride scholarship. It covers tuition only, you'll still be responsible for other expenses like housing, meal plans, books, and additional fees.
- **Scholarship Ownership:** You are the beneficiary of the scholarship. The TSIC Foundation owns the plan and manages its use.
- **Enrollment Requirement:** You must enroll in at least one college course within 15 months of graduating high school to maintain eligibility.
- **Using It Elsewhere:** You can use the scholarship at private or out-of-state schools, but reimbursement is limited to about \$100 per credit hour. These schools often cost over \$25,000 per semester, so plan accordingly with the financial aid office ensuring you have enough loans, scholarships, and grants to cover your costs.
- **Scholarship Provided:** Upon graduation, you'll receive a 60-credit hour plan. Once those are used, you may apply for up to 60 additional credits if funds are available.
- **Best Value:** The scholarship offers the **most value at Florida public colleges**. These institutions align with the Florida Prepaid tuition rates.
- **Tuition Rate Differences:** University tuition is nearly double that of state colleges. This means your credits are used up faster at universities. Example: If you take 15 credits at a Florida public university, it may use up 28 credits from your plan due to higher tuition rates. At a state college like St. Petersburg College (SPC), the same 15 credits would only use 15 credits from your plan—thanks to the College Tuition Rate Plan.

For general questions about your plan, refer to the **TSIC Scholarship FAQ's** located in the section titled Current TSIC Student Meeting Requirements at <https://pinellaseducation.org/students/>.

Summer Goals for Your Upcoming Senior Year

Next fall, deadlines are going to be approaching fast. 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.

Quarter 4 continued

Summer College Prep: Get a Head Start Before School Starts

You don't have to wait for the school year to begin making progress toward your college goals. Here are some important steps students can take over the summer:

1. **Tour Colleges & Universities** - Schedule campus visits to explore schools you're interested in and get a feel for the environment.
2. **Start College Applications** - Begin filling out applications early. If you are qualified for PSAT/SAT/ACT fee waivers, ask your school counselor about application fee waivers before you break for summer.
3. **Request Letters of Recommendation** - Identify who you'll ask and give them plenty of time to write a thoughtful letter.
4. **Draft Your College Essays** - Review the types of essays required and begin outlining or writing your drafts.
5. **Continue SAT/ACT Prep & Plan a Retake** - Keep practicing and aim to retake the test early in the fall. Colleges will consider your highest scores, and you can still apply early even if your scores are pending.
6. **Update Your High School Resume** - Add any new volunteer hours or work experience to your records for Bright Futures and other scholarships.
7. **Apply for Scholarships** - Use the summer to search and apply for scholarships—many have early deadlines!