



# Pinellas Education Foundation

## 2025-2026 TSIC 12<sup>th</sup> 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%

**Did you know the TSIC Student's Responsibilities are developed to help you form better habits and to be more responsible?**

These habits that you are developing, help you when you are an adult, in college, and in the workforce. Besides meeting with your mentor, you are learning how to manage your responsibilities. This is why our TSIC students have a much higher rate, than the state average, with receiving their degree!

#### 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

#### **Annual College and Career Fair**

Countryside High

October 6, 2025, from 6:00-7:30pm

## Quarter 1 continued

### Senior College Prep Workshop – November 13, 2025

Location: SPC – Clearwater Campus, 2465 Drew Street, Clearwater, FL 33765

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

**Seniors need to plan to attend the workshop and bring a cell phone to fill out online web forms to complete your Florida Prepaid Activation.** 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.

[Gift Basket Giveaways](#) | [Gift Card Giveaways](#) | [Speak with Admissions](#)  
[SPC Waived Application Fee for student and parent](#) |

**5:00pm** Registration, Senior Sponsor Photos, and table browsing: FUSE, PATHE, FAAME, WOW, Admissions, and Student Support Services

**6:00pm** Program starts **(Arrive no later than 5:30 for sponsor senior photo)**

**7:15pm** Program ends.

### Fast Approaching Scholarship Deadlines!

#### Leaders for Life (L4L) Fellowship Scholarship

Application Open: August 6 – September 26, 2025

The L4L Fellowship supports exceptional Take Stock in Children seniors with strong leadership, moral character, and academic success to excel in a university environment.

##### Benefits include:

- MacBook laptop
- Leadership & professional development fellowship
- Up to \$10,000/year (max \$40,000) for attending a Florida public university
- Funds can be used for housing, meals, books, etc.

##### Eligibility:

- Minimum 3.5 GPA
- At least 75 community service hours
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Two 1,000-word essays on provided topics
- Only 7 seniors statewide will be selected.

Ask your College Readiness Coach or email [TSIC@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:TSIC@pinellaseducation.org) to request the L4L application.

#### Inspires Scholarship

For students interested in UCF, apply to the school by Oct 15<sup>th</sup> so you can qualify to apply for the Inspires Scholarship that has an award of up to \$5000! Find out more by going to

<https://honors.ucf.edu/inspirescholars/> and downloading the application. Application due by January 5, 2026

## Quarter 1 continued

### Top 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/>.

### 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>. 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 by 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 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.
- Wait one or two weeks and then check with the admissions office where you have applied to confirm that the admissions office has received your application and all supporting documentation.

## Quarter 1 continued

### 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

### Additional Scholarships to apply for

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. To apply: [Florida Financial Aid Application for Bright Futures](#). Deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup> of the year you graduate high school.

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/>



Senior Scholarships offered through the Foundation – opens 9/30/2025

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/students/> Scroll down to Senior Scholarships

Apply Tampa Bay Scholarships- The Apply Tampa Bay Scholarship Search enables Tampa Bay students, families, and providers to explore scholarships with personalized filters and comprehensive local, regional, statewide, and national opportunities. <https://applytampabay.org/>

## Quarter 2 continued

Inspires Scholarship at UCF

Award up to \$5000. Find out more by going to <https://honors.ucf.edu/inspirescholars/> and downloading the application.

Submit the Inspires application to [TSIC@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:TSIC@pinellaseducation.org) and title the email Inspires Scholarship Application and supporting documentation by January 5, 2026.

### Eligibility:

- Minimum 3.5 GPA
- Minimum SAT score 1210 or ACT score of 25
- Must be taking rigorous high school course schedule
- Must demonstrate leadership, community service, or family responsibilities
- Must be eligible to be awarded the Bright Futures FMS or FAS award

### FAFSA

When students are applying to their top college choices, they will expect the student to have completed the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The seniors graduating in 2026 should apply for the 2026-2027 school by going to <https://studentaid.gov/>.

- If starting college in August 2026, students will need to complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA using 2024 taxes.
- If starting college prior to August 2026, the student will need to also complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA using 2023 taxes.

**Make sure to list your top college choices on your FAFSA. The earlier a school receives your information, and if you choose to attend, they may offer you additional scholarships or grants that aren't available later. Don't miss out by waiting!**

## Quarter 2 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](https://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates)
- ACT Test Dates: [www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html](https://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html)
- CLT Test Dates: [www.cltexam.com](https://www.cltexam.com)

**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.

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/>

## Quarter 3

Senior Celebration TBD placeholder

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### 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?



## Quarter 4

### Final Senior Exit Meeting

1. Final step to activating FPP scholarship plans
2. A review of quarter 1 FAQs is important for students to hear the information again since many of them have now been accepted into colleges and universities.
3. A final collection of data will be asked during final coaching session for the senior exit meeting.

### Important Florida Prepaid Scholarship Information

Seniors will soon receive an email containing their FPP account number. Please note that one final step is required to activate the scholarship:

- Complete the Florida Prepaid Survey using the account number provided in your email.
- If you plan to attend an out-of-state or private college/university, you must notify us so we can complete a transfer form on your behalf.
- Please email [TSIC.Grad@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:TSIC.Grad@pinellaseducation.org) with your plans.

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