

# Empowered for Success

A College and Career Newsletter for the Gulf Coast

## CCR Profile Planning Guide

[The College and Career Readiness Profile Planning Guide](#) is an interactive tool to help schools and districts comprehensively approach student college and career readiness. It was developed through a partnership of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) with Region XIII Education Service Center (ESC) and Austin Community College.

The guide was designed to:

- Prepare teachers and students for STAAR and EOC
- Bring focus and build upon current college and career readiness efforts
- Engage all staff for all students
- provide the tools and resources to develop a college and career readiness culture
- Create the state-required campus improvement plan

Out of 20 regions in the state, 17 have been trained to offer the guide to districts and schools through a training of trainers program. Using and implementing the guide is organized into [six stages](#) and can be integrated into leadership meetings easily.

ESC 13 College and Career Readiness Specialist Steve Frank works closely with the guide, and sees its foundational understanding of college and career readiness to be a necessary culture shift to seeing readiness on a more comprehensive scope than simply Mathematics, English and Language Arts, Science and Social Sciences

"What we see as college and career ready is implementation of the four content areas, absolutely, but it's also fine arts, physical education, world language and career/technical education," Frank said.

A campus using the guide will begin by the leadership team getting acquainted with the research and data the guide is founded on. Next, the leadership team will gather their own data, locally as well as campus-wide. This includes seeking feedback from faculty and staff through already-written surveys (called campus data gathering prompts) that assess student performance. The team

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### In This Issue

Gulf Coast Feature:  
[CCR Profile Planning Guide](#)

CCRS Across the Nation:  
[Center for College Readiness](#)

[Texas Success Initiative Assessment](#)

Save the Date:  
[College and Career Symposium](#)

[Poverty and Coaching Institutes](#)

Online Resources:  
[K-12 and College-Level Classroom Resources](#)

### Upcoming Events

Nov. 5 @ESC 4: [College and Career Readiness Symposium](#)

Rigorous curriculum, instruction with real-world relevance, information for educational leaders to

will then gain insight into faculty and staff perceptions when reviewing the responses and will begin to address those perceptions as necessary.

"What we're trying to do is create ownership throughout the entire campus," Frank said. "Every teacher is responsible to build college and career readiness, not just the four core-content area teachers."

Finally, the team will then identify and prioritize the areas of focus, and decide how to take action, given the local data they have collected in the previous steps and suggested strategies geared toward their specific situation.

Frank explained, "The objective here is by grade 12 all Texas students will be ready to pursue further studies or whatever occupational outcome they have interest in. By going through the Profile Planning Guide, we have a framework the schools can work within to actually realize that potential in students."

After exploring the interactive guide, it may be impressive that one 19-member task force developed it in less than two years. Though its intended purpose may sound daunting (to provide a campus improvement plan tailored to the needs of each campus), its straightforward design breaks the process down into easy-to-digest steps, making it ideal for systemwide use in school districts. "This is really a P-16 initiative," Frank said. "I want schools to come back and say they'd love to have something specific like this for their middle schools and elementary schools so that they can build capacity like this all along the way."

For more information about the guide, or to contact the specialist serving your area, visit [txccrsc.org](http://txccrsc.org).

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This section of *Empowered for Success* is based solely on the feedback of our readers. To share your institution's CCRS initiatives, simply visit the [Gulf Coast CCRS](#) website [Contact Us](#) page and send us an email with your information.

## Center for College Readiness

Minnesota State Community and Technical College  
Minnesota State Community and Technical College maintains the online [Center for College Readiness](#). This website provides resources for intermediate and high school students and teachers to increase the number of Minnesota students who are ready for college and career.

Programs include:

prepare students for a globally competitive and technology-driven world. Read about Speaker Bill Daggett.

Nov. 12 - 13  
or Nov. 14 - 15

@ ESC 20: [Poverty and Coaching Institutes](#)

Through the interactive two-day sessions offered, participants will gain better insight into poverty and tools for breaking poverty barriers.

- [Step Write Up](#) and [Ready or Not Writing](#), where Minnesota students in grades 8 through 11 can submit a portfolio of their essays and receive constructive feedback based on the expectations they will face the following year, in high school or college. Eighth grade students receive feedback from high school English teachers; High school students receive feedback from college professors.
- [Ready or Not Reading](#) focuses on preparing students for college-level reading.
- [Math Works](#) facilitates distance learning collaboration between middle school and high school math classes, teachers and a college faculty member.

The Center for College Readiness is funded through [Minnesota State Colleges and Universities](#).

Learn more at [www.centerforcollegereadiness.org](http://www.centerforcollegereadiness.org).

## Texas Success Initiative Assessment

Starting in August 2013, students attending Texas colleges and universities will have one assessment option (if they are not exempt): the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment. The [TSI Assessment \(PDF\)](#) will be a placement testing system that focuses on college readiness. It will be a customizable tool powered by the ACCUPLACER® platform and aligned to the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS).

The new system will be designed to help institutions determine how prepared students are to enroll and succeed in entry-level college courses, as well as offer options for intervention if students are not prepared. Data from the TSI Assessment also can help educators plan classroom instruction according to students' strengths and weaknesses.

According to THECB, "The TSI Assessment will be unique in its ability to address not only the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards but also educational functioning level descriptors for adult basic education. The overarching goal is to help all students successfully transition to postsecondary degree paths, certificate programs and the workplace."

Read more about the [TSI Assessment \(PDF\)](#).

# Online Resources

## K-12 Math and ELA Classroom Resources

East Texas College Readiness  
Advisor Debbie Kiesel's new  
contributions in ELA and  
contributions in mathematics from ESC 6 are now available!  
Resources include materials from past events as well as  
information on future workshops. For a complete list, visit [K-12  
Classroom Resources](#).

- Presentations from four-day symposium [Teaching Writing 2012: Multi-Modal Mixed-Media Methods for Teaching Composition](#) (PDF)
- State Professional Development opportunities for [mathematics](#) (PDF) and [science](#) (PDF) instructors.
- [Workshops: Great Explorations in Math and Science](#) (PDF)
- [Numeracy for Secondary Students](#) (PDF)

We are working diligently to bring you the [Texas CCRS Network](#) website by Dec. 1, while keeping the Gulf Coast website as up-to-date as possible. Don't forget to visit us and send us your feedback.

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If you have feedback or suggestions, please email  
*Empowered for Success* Editor **Alicia Wilson**.  
Be sure to stop by the **Gulf Coast CCRS** website  
for more information and updates.

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