



Pre-Meeting Overview

Summer 2010 Inaugural Meeting:

Texas Consortium on School Research Steering Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to a) assure that TCSR is **driven by and responsive to the needs of member schools districts** and b) **establish a TCSR Steering Committee** made up of district personnel who are dedicated to:

- Identifying College Readiness as a priority,
- Improving college going rates among their students,
- Using research findings to guide their districts policies and programs, and
- Sharing their experiences and expertise to help shape the future of TCSR and its research agenda.

The TCSR Steering Committee will speak on behalf of all of TCSR districts and action will be taken on the basis of what the committee says.

Goals

Throughout the meeting we hope to accomplish the following goals with you:

- Provide opportunities for district interaction
- Discuss and develop a common vision for the Steering Committee
- Discuss and develop a common understanding of TCSR goals
- Identify topics and discuss the development of a TCSR research agenda
- Identify and discuss outcomes that would make participation in TCSR most meaningful to your district

5 Elements of TCSR

TCSR was established with the ultimate goal of improving practice and increasing college readiness rates. We envision TCSR with a **research agenda driven by district needs** and centered on the following elements that would help districts be better able to do the following:

- Understand and use quality research
- Use longitudinal data sets
- Build a community of practice
- Develop capacity to conduct research
- Drive effective use of solutions to improve college success

We will take time to discuss the 5 elements and their relevance to your district.

Studies of Consequence

We will begin exploring ideas connected to developing a TCSR research agenda and conducting studies that will have an impact on districts. At the February 2010 meeting, district participants identified several topics that they were most interested in having TCSR pursue. The topics that came up most often were as follows:

- Indicators (Early Warning)
- Workforce, career, and vocational training and readiness
- First generation college students
- Math, science, reading

For Your Consideration

Please think about your district and be prepared to identify and talk about the greatest problems of practice facing your district and what topics you would like to consider as we begin thinking about developing a TCSR research agenda.

Note: Results of the full report TCSR Small Group Discussion Summaries are available on the TCSR website in the February 26, 2010 Convenings at: <http://tcsr.edvanceresearch.com/events.shtml>

Foundation Funding

As we move into the developing stage of TCSR we have begun to seek additional funding through foundations and organizations. This funding would be over and above what REL Southwest of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) can provide and would allow us to expand TCSR services to participating districts. We will discuss this more during the meeting, identify the limitations of IES funding, and discuss potential benefits of additional foundation/organization funding.

Expectations

In order to move TCSR to the next stage in a way that focuses on a research agenda driven by district needs, it will become increasingly important to gather input and ideas from TCSR Steering Committee members. **Your input will help shape the future of TCSR and maximize benefits for your district and other participating districts across Texas.**

During the meeting we will take time to discuss general expectations of the TCSR Steering Committee. Tentatively, we have created a schedule outlining future TCSR Steering Committee meetings. These meetings include both conference calls and in-person meetings. We are proposing in-person meetings that would coincide with the larger, in-person TCSR meetings and/or with TASA conferences. We will take time to discuss the tentative schedule and collect your input.

Tentative TCSR Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

Meeting Type	Approximate Date
Conference Call	July 2010
In-Person	October 2010
In-Person	January/February 2011
Conference Call	March 2011
Conference Call	June 2011

Questions:

For Your Consideration

Please come prepared to discuss the following questions:

1. If TCSR could help you accomplish 1 thing in your district, what would that be?
2. What are the 1-3 most pressing problems with respect to College Readiness within your district?
3. Where do you see TCSR adding *greatest value* to your district? How and in what ways?
4. How effective are the On-Track to Graduate Indicator presentations, analyses, and results we provided at the February 2010 meeting and May/June webinar? What might you like to see next with regard to Indicator work?
5. Would you consider working in a TCSR sub-group (*such as conducting analysis on a particular program, researching a topic within your district and sharing with the larger group, working with other districts on sub-topics in need of investigation*)?
6. What is the optimal TCSR meeting/pre-meeting duration, time of day, location?
7. What would you like to see more of during the in-person Meetings? Webinars?
8. Would you be willing to have your involvement in this important TCSR Steering Committee highlighted on the TCSR website and in press releases (identifying your name, title, and district)?