

Update on TCSR Steering Committee

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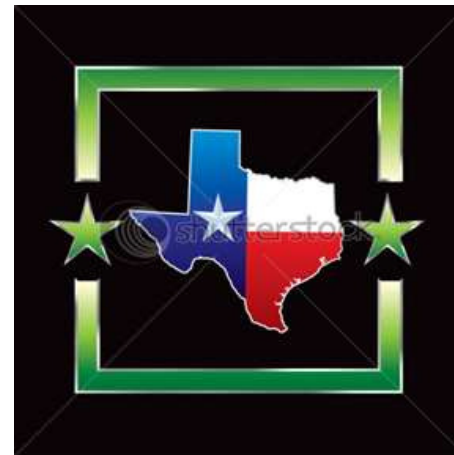
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Inform TCSR Research Agenda



“What are the most pressing problems facing districts in preparing graduates who are college & career ready?”



Consensus



Most Frequently Identified Problem:
Lack of Rigorous & Aligned Curriculum

7. Lack of Focus in K-12 Programs for Nurturing Academic Behaviors in Students	5. Need to Start Early to Create a College-Going Culture	4. Do More, Less		Needs—Both Educational & Personal—of Students	of High Expectations by All Stakeholders for All Students	Prepare All Students for a Range of Post-Secondary Possibilities in a Changing World	8. Challenge of Attracting, Retaining, and Developing Quality Staff & Leadership
~Lack of soft skills by students ~"Soft Skills" (time management, collaborative skills, personal responsibility)	~Awareness in elementary & middle schools of post-secondary awareness ~Awareness about post-secondary options & visualizing "what it takes" ~Educating & informing parents	~Follow the money ~Continual budget reductions ~Strategic use of funds & resources ~Funding for schools	~Vertically aligned rigorous P-16 curriculum ~Lack of curricular alignment between high school & college ~Students reading on grade level (starting at elementary) ~Rigor & level of instruction ~College entrance exam requirements (meeting minimum standards) ~STAAR at high school/ graduation requirements ~Curriculum alignment P-16 ~Improving teaching & learning in the classroom ~Rigorous programs with effective support systems ~Alignment with post-secondary	~Connecting most effective teachers to neediest students ~Ensuring all students have a personal advocate to help them through the system to higher education enrollment ~Understanding transition to grade 9 ~Non-traditional approach to high school experience ~Challenges & struggles of ELL students ~Lack of hands-on guidance for financial aid ~Funding for students ~Loss of trust of student-teacher	~Paradigm shift—culture of high expectations ~Establishing high expectations for all students ~Standardized testing & accountability (not going away) ~Schools are measured on TAKS, not college readiness ~TAKS is floor, not ceiling	~Changing job market ~21 st century academic counseling (college & career) ~Prepared for a range of possibilities	~Selecting & developing effective teacher & campus leaders ~Strong leadership in systemic change to college & career readiness for all

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8 Pressing Problems

Creating Research Topics from District-Identified Problems

District-Identified Problem	Key Research Topics
1. Lack of Rigorous & Aligned P-16 Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How does the rigor and quality of classroom instruction vary at the school and classroom level in TCSR districts? b) What are TCSR districts doing to improve the rigor and quality of their college preparatory classes? How effective are these efforts? a) What strategies are districts, colleges and the state using to align curriculum and classroom instruction with postsecondary entrance requirements? How effective are these efforts?
1. Ability to Meet the Diverse Needs— Both Educational and Personal—of Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What are TCSR districts doing to improve college readiness among diverse learners (including low-income, minority students, English language learners, etc.)? b) What are effective strategies for helping students entering high school with skill deficiencies? c) What elements of school learning climate (e.g. teacher relationships, personal attention and advocacy) are most predictive of student success in high school?



Narrowing the Scope

**TOP
5**



Voices from the TCSR Steering Committee:

**Karen Vance,
Grapevine-Colleyville ISD**

&

**Jennifer Cobb,
Spring Branch ISD**

Top 5 Research Topics Identified by the TCSR Steering Committee

1. Rigor and quality of instruction (diverse learners, successful strategies, algebra I as example of a graduation requirement)
2. Student behavior and school level factors most predictive of middle school student success
3. Soft skills: Evaluating what's being done across districts and what's successful
4. Minimum level of academic proficiency in high school to ensure success at a) non selective colleges and b) entry level careers
5. Identifying strategies that are successful for improving high school, college outcomes