



ROCKDALE READY!

College and Career Readiness
Postsecondary Organizer
From Kindergarten to Graduation

WHAT'S THE PLAN

One of the four priority goals of Rockdale ISD is to ensure that all students have a foundation for success. This success is built upon the mastery of reading, writing, mathematics, and scientific principles, but is amplified in scope by the addition of college and career readiness (CCR) standards. From kindergarten to graduation, students are prepared academically and held to rigorous expectations in both core and non-core areas. This post-secondary readiness plan and organizer is a tool to help students of all ages strategically plan his/her future after leaving the K-12 school system.

As defined by the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC), college- and career-ready students have “the knowledge and skills to keep learning beyond secondary school, first in formal settings and then in the workplace through their careers, so that they are capable of adapting to unpredictable changes and new economic conditions and opportunities.” Dr. David Conley, leading author on the subject, adds,

“A student’s interests and post-high school aspirations influence the precise knowledge and skill profiles necessary to be ready for postsecondary studies. [...] The measure of success should be student success in their chosen field of postsecondary education or post-high school training.”

RISD’s plan is to prepare each student academically and introduce them to a variety of pathways and careers so that they may find what they have a true interest in, can be passionate about, and are academically prepared for to build the foundation for success.



MAP THE PLAN

Each year presents a series of opportunities both at home and in school for the student to gain knowledge and skills towards college and career readiness. The first part of the plan is for K-8, and is a guide for the school, students, and parents to use to help build the foundation for success toward CCR.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten

- Identify yourself as the class of 20##!

Parents/Guardians

- Help your child start the habit of being at school and on time everyday and continue this throughout their school years.
- Start financial planning for your child's academic future by researching college savings funds.

1st Grade

- Map out the careers of people in your own family or people you admire.

Parents/Guardians

- Read with your child every night for 10-20 minutes to help instill a love of reading and continue this throughout their elementary and intermediate years.
- Check the take home folder every night, discuss behavior and academics with your child and continue this habit throughout their elementary and intermediate years.

2nd Grade

- Participate in Career Dress-Up Day and research what interests you about that career.

Parents/Guardians

- Help your child start the habit of completing homework every night correctly and continue this throughout their school years.

All Elementary Grades

- Ask questions each six weeks about the careers presented to you in the following clusters:
 - Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
 - Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
 - Education & Training
 - Government & Public Administration
 - Health Sciences
 - Human Services
 - Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
 - Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Engage in sessions presented by the counselor about social, academic, and work-related skills

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

3rd Grade

- Become involved in the research of the large public universities in Texas and pick your favorite.
- Ask questions to the recent Rockdale graduates that come to visit and tell you about their college/university.

Parents/Guardians

- Encourage your child to explore his/her interests in diverse areas and schedule productive free time.

4th Grade

- Become involved in the research of the smaller public colleges and private universities in Texas and pick your favorite.
- Ask questions to the recent Rockdale graduates that come to visit and tell you about their college/university.

Parents/Guardians

- Encourage your child to ask family and friends about their careers and educational backgrounds.

5th Grade

- Become involved in the research of the universities and colleges outside of Texas and pick your favorite.
- Ask questions to the recent Rockdale graduates that come to visit and tell you about their college/university.

Parents/Guardians

- Visit a place of work that your child is interested in currently to encourage his/her aspirations.

All Intermediate Grades

- Ask questions each six weeks about the careers presented to you in the following clusters:
 - Architecture & Construction
 - Business Management & Administration
 - Finance
 - Hospitality & Tourism
 - Information Technology
 - Manufacturing
 - Marketing
 - Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

6th Grade

- Explore careers by completing the interest profiler at <https://texascareercheck.com/ExploreCareer/InterestProfiler> and submit results to your teacher.
- Research careers you showed an interest in at <https://texascareercheck.com/ExploreCareer/CompareOccupations>.
- Attend sessions by the counselor for career counseling.
- Attend the military day at school.

Parents/Guardians

- Start a folder of career interests and research for your child.
- Help your child set goals for the year.

7th Grade

- Complete the career assessment on <http://texasgenuine.com> and submit results to your teacher.
- Attend sessions by the counselor about each of the 16 career clusters.
- Attend the field trip to the technical school.

Parents/Guardians

- Have your child visit friends and family at work to research careers he/she may be interested in.
- Discuss ways to take on challenges.
- Participate in career day in May as a volunteer or speaker.

8th Grade

- Complete the career interest survey in January on <http://rockdale-students.ctecoding.com/> (use your Rockdale ISD login information) and add to your profile and portfolio.
- Review choices offered under the Foundation High School Program and the Endorsements to decide on your future academic path.
- Visit the high school on 8th grade tour day in January to check out the opportunities in high school.
- Attend the 8th grade parent night with your parent/guardian in February to learn more about your future.
- Determine a program of study that will help guide your academic choices.
- Select the endorsement based on your program of study that best fits your area of personal interest.
- Meet with the counselor to discuss your career interests and your personal graduation plan (PGP).

Parents/Guardians

- Discuss your child's career interest survey results and his/her future.
- Talk about extracurricular activities and getting involved.
- Attend the 8th grade parent night with your child to learn more about their future.
- Review the Foundation High School Plan and programs of study offered at RHS.
- Discuss the personal graduation plan (PGP) with your child and his/her counselor on registration night.

WORK THE PLAN

College and Career Readiness (CCR) is a large part of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) School Accountability system. Of the three domains, CCR falls under the Student Achievement domain and is 40% of the score for high schools. Students are considered to be College and Career ready if they meet any **ONE** of the following requirements:

- AP Exam - Score of 3 or higher on any AP exam
- ACT Exam - Minimum composite score of 23; minimum 19 on English, minimum 19 on math
- SAT Exam - Minimum score of 480 on EBRW and minimum score of 530 on math
- TSIA2 Exam - ELAR Section: CRC score of a 945-990 w/Essay of 5-8 or
CRC of a 910-944 with a Diagnostic Level of 5-6 and an Essay of 5-8
Math: CRC score of 950-990 or
CRC score of 910-949 with a Diagnostic Level of 6
- College Prep Course - Take and finish the College Bridge online courses in English and math
- Dual Credit - Earn 3 college credit hours or more in ELAR or mathematics
- Earn an industry-based certification in a Career and Technical Education course
(i.e. Microsoft Office Certifications, Adobe Certified Associate, CompTIA+, Certified Clinical Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, AWS D1.1, AWS D9.1, NCCER Core, TSFA Level 1 Floral)

Rockdale ISD is committed to helping every student meet one or several of these qualifications by developing the personal graduation plan (PGP) which highlights the student's post-secondary intention and pathway for achieving that plan through coherent sequences of courses in Career and Technical Education (CTE), Arts and Humanities, and Academia.

HIGH SCHOOL

The following 9-12 plan is a detailed guide for the school, students, and parents to use to help ensure post-secondary readiness in college and career.

9th Grade

- Create a basic resume in Freshmen Focus and English I; keep it in your Google Drive.
- Get involved in the school, extra-curricular activities, and community service activities.
- Remember to add your list of awards, honors, extracurricular, and community service activities to your resume as you go for scholarship, college, and job applications.
- Work with your Career and Technical (CTE) teacher on your employability skills.
- Attend sessions with the counselor on career counseling: www.texasrealitycheck.com
- Update your personal graduation plan (PGP) with the counselor at the end of the year.

Parents/Guardians

- Research the leadership organizations, career and technical student organizations, athletic teams, and other activities available for your child to become a member of to determine the best fit.

- Discuss the personal graduation plan (PGP) at the end of the year with your child to ensure it still aligns with their goals.
- Help your child set goals for the school year and beyond.
- Make sure your child meets with the school counselor to discuss post-secondary options.
- Look into financial aid options if your child is thinking about college.

10th Grade

- Update your resume and make it your own in English II; keep it in your Google Drive.
- Remember to add your list of awards, honors, extracurricular, and community service activities to your resume as you go for scholarship, college, and job applications.
- Work with your Career and Technical (CTE) teacher on your employability skills.
- Research colleges, universities, technical schools or programs, or employers you are interested in attending or working for. Check admission and application requirements and timelines. You can use <https://texasoncourse.org/> to help you research and plan.
- Explore interests and take advantage of Career Day opportunities.
- Attend college nights and talk with school representatives.
- Take the PSAT and Pre-ACT for practice.
- Update your personal graduation plan (PGP) with the counselor at the end of the year.

Parents/Guardians

- Attend college nights with your child and discuss financial aid options with the reps.
- Discuss the personal graduation (PGP) at the end of the year with your child to ensure it still aligns with their goals.
- Help your sophomore explore career ideas.
- Attend PSAT/Pre-ACT Score nights to understand what your child's scores mean.

11th Grade

- Update your resume and tailor it for your post-secondary future in English III; keep it in your Google Drive.
- Remember to add your list of awards, honors, extracurricular, and community service activities to your resume as you go for scholarship, college, and job applications.
- Work with your Career and Technical (CTE) teacher on your employability skills
- Participate in an internship in your career interest.
- College Bound:**
 - Tour campuses you are interested in attending.
 - Consider taking SAT/ACT prep class. Sign up and take the PSAT in the fall.
 - Sign up and take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- Technical School Bound:**
 - Tour campuses you are interested in attending.
 - Consider taking SAT/ACT prep class. Sign up and take the PSAT in the fall.
 - Sign up and take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- Military Bound:**
 - Consider taking SAT/ACT prep class. Sign up and take the PSAT in the fall.
 - Take the ASVAB (if you are at least 16).
 - Sign up and take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
 - Meet with a recruiter.

Workforce Bound:

- Consider taking SAT/ACT prep class. Sign up and take the PSAT in the fall.
- Sign up and take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- Tour job sites of places you are interested in being employed.
- Update your personal graduation plan (PGP) with the counselor at the end of the year.

Parents/Guardians

- Help your child stay organized with monthly to-do lists.
- Remind your junior about internship and scholarship opportunities.

12th Grade

- Review credits to make sure you are on track for graduation.
- Finalize your high school resume in English IV for your post-secondary future; keep it in your Google Drive but also email it and share it with your personal email address.
- Work with your Career and Technical (CTE) teacher on your employability skills.
- Check with the counselor's office to learn about available scholarships. Be sure to apply early and for as many scholarships as possible.
- Ask for 3-5 letters of reference/recommendation from teachers.

College Bound:

- Sign up and take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Sign up and take the TSI.
- Apply for admission to selected schools in fall. Use www.applytexas.org or www.commonapp.com for many college applications.
- Complete the FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/>
- Confirm acceptance to college of choice in spring or as soon as possible.

Technical School Bound:

- Sign up and take the TSI.
- Apply for admission to selected schools. Use www.applytexas.org or www.commonapp.com for many college applications.
- Complete the FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/>

Military Bound:

- Take or retake the ASVAB (if you did not when you were a junior).
- Complete paperwork with the recruiter.

Workforce Bound:

- Find job openings.
- Apply for internships.
- Update your resume.

Parents/Guardians

- Discuss and support post-secondary choices with your child.

ACHIEVE THE PLAN

Rockdale ISD's educational system is driven by the mission and vision of preparing all students for post-secondary education, the workforce, military, and productive citizenship. Rigorous learning standards provide a clear and coherent description of the content, depth of knowledge, and skills students are expected to master to be prepared for success in college and careers.

Upon completion of the 12th grade, we strive to have all Rockdale graduates:

- Meet the requirements of Texas Foundation High School Program with Endorsement
- Meet the requirements of Texas College and Career Readiness Standards
- Demonstrate competency in Employability Skills through USDE framework
- Be enrolled in a post-secondary institution, be employed in a skilled job, or enlisted for the Armed Forces upon graduation

CCR high school graduates have the skills, knowledge and abilities needed to succeed in life, whether they plan to attend college (two or four year or technical school) or start a career or join the Armed Forces. This means that, since childhood, the students have been academically prepared and provided with the knowledge and skills necessary to plan their careers and live their lives with success.

Rockdale ISD commits to working this plan and improving this plan as the needs of our community and students change.