

Chapter 3

Overview

Chapter Three — you're almost to the halfway mark!

Let's review where we've been. In Chapter One we set the stage by talking about the need for college and career readiness, what that really means, what it looks like in Texas, and why it is important when considering the market into which students are graduating. In the last chapter, we got specific about programmatic changes to course-taking and graduation, how to build in better communication, and how to use data to help you — and your school — make the best recommendations and choices possible to support your students.

Chapter Three consists of five lessons in which we'll dig a little deeper into the nitty-gritty of preparing students to take the next step in their academic lives.

The five lessons in this chapter are:

1. How Can P–12 Counselors Prepare Students for College and Careers?
2. When is the Right Time to Start Preparing for College and Careers?
3. Taking Charge of College and Career Readiness Planning
4. Earning College Credit in High School
5. Using Social Media to Prepare for College and Careers

Do you remember that theme I keep reminding you of about starting college and career preparation early? You can expect to see many examples of how you can apply that theme in the upcoming lessons. Making decisions today that pay off in the future is not a strength for many young people, so implementing the suggestions in these lessons will require you to leverage your relationships with students and your ability to hold them accountable in a classroom setting. Or, if you don't work in a classroom, work closely with someone who does to make sure they require the necessary preparatory work.

Without further ado, let's get started. Are your pencils ready? Welcome to Chapter Three!