

## Full Course Overview

Greetings, and welcome to the Texas Online College and Career Readiness Resource Center. If you are taking this course, it means that you work with K–12 students in some capacity. You may be a teacher or an administrator, you may work at the elementary, middle, or high school level, or you may interact with students in some other capacity. Regardless of your role, I'm glad you're here, because it takes an entire community of educators to adequately prepare all students for college and career.

Before we begin, I'd like to go over a couple of themes and assumptions that you'll notice throughout the course. The first is very simple. This course is built on the belief that all students should graduate from high school prepared to continue their education, be it through a certificate program, a two-year community college, the military, or a four-year institution. In fact, it is the purpose of K–12 education to prepare students to be lifelong learners and to pursue meaningful careers in which they can advance over time. This assumption requires an adjustment in thinking for some educators, and you may be one of them. That's ok; I have a lot of good information to share with you about how and why we should talk about college and career readiness with all students in mind.

Another theme you will notice throughout this course is that it is never too early to begin talking about post-secondary opportunities. Even pre-kindergarten teachers can begin creating a “college-going culture” for their students by featuring different kinds of jobs and referencing college and careers when introducing new skills. Not all students come from families with college-going experience, but by making post-secondary learning a consistent focus throughout K–12, we educators can help students feel confident that they have what it takes to continue their educations. Throughout the course, you'll hear a lot of tips and reminders for how to build college and career readiness into your schools and classrooms, starting with the early grades.

So let's get started! I'll be checking in with you at the beginning of each lesson and each chapter and occasionally throughout the course. Enjoy your learning!