

Hidalgo Early College District Toolkit

Why Tech Prep Matters

Times have changed. For today's youth to be successful, it is every bit as important that they make good career decisions as it is that they make good grades in school. More and more of today's jobs require technical skills and training. In the near future 85% of jobs will require the advanced training and knowledge supplied by an Associate or bachelor's degree. In Tech Prep, students have the opportunity to explore career options early, in a hands-on, challenging environment. In this high school setting students discover their own interests and skills while experiencing practical, real-world ways to pursue their goals in a variety of high-skill, high-wage technical careers.

STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
 No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc., on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or veteran status, or disability.

STATEMENT OF FUNDING
 Tech Prep RGV's programs are funded in part by grants from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, and from other sources.

School District Contact Information:

Name

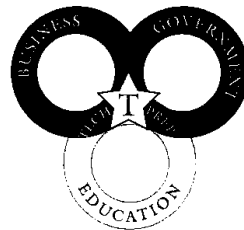
Title

Phone

Parents' Guide to Tech Prep



How you and Your Child Can Benefit from College Tech Prep Programs



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Tech Prep Students have:

- ✓ Lower dropout rates
- ✓ Higher graduation rates
- ✓ Higher college rates

Tech Prep is an important national education program, providing exciting opportunities for all students to receive valuable education, technical skills, and specialized training that can lead to rewarding, high-demand, high-paying careers. It's available in high school and it's free!



As an alternative to traditional college prep, Tech Prep guides students to selected course work that prepares them for careers in technical fields ranging from information technology and healthcare to engineering, law enforcement, and many other areas. Because Tech Prep students have a clear vision of how their high school and college courses are tied to their future success, they stay motivated and on-track for graduation.

Students Save Time and Money

In Tech Prep, students start taking college courses in high school and pay no tuition or fees. College credits earned in high school reduce the number of courses to be paid for when students enroll in college. Besides saving money on tuition and fees, Tech Prep students are typically able to earn an Associates or Bachelor's Degree in less time because of those credits from high school. This helps students to reach their education and career goals in a much shorter time. Students can save hundreds of dollars--sometimes even more--on the cost of college through Tech Prep. Students who complete their Tech Prep programs also become eligible to graduate as Tech Prep Texas Scholars and to compete for one of the Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep Scholarships.



How Tech Prep Works

A student signs up for a Tech Prep career pathway plan that covers four years of high school classes and at least two years of college. It's best to enter Tech Prep in 9th grade, but still possible to enroll up through the senior year. Tech Prep also gives students real-world exposure to their chosen fields through job shadowing, mentoring, and internships.