TTU K-12

Texas Tech University K-12 CD#152504

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District Improvement Plan 2021-2022

**Vision**

To create a strong online academic community that provides students an excellent education: anytime, anywhere.

**Mission**

To provide an excellent academic program that engages, challenges, and prepares students for their futures.

**Motto**

TTU K-12 is your academic community, wherever you are.

# TEA Strategic Plan

By the year 2030, projections indicate that most jobs will require some training beyond high school. This could be a traditional 4-year degree, a 2-year degree, or an industry credential. But today, too few Texas students are obtaining postsecondary credentials. Without bold action, Texas faces a future of diminished incomes, opportunities, and resources. Initiated by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the 60x30TX Plan is designed to ensure that a competitive and prosperous future remains for students seeking to better their lives and the lives of their families. The state has adopted 60x30TX as our collective goal.

To support far more rapid improvements in student outcomes to meet the goals of 60x30TX, the Texas Education Agency has adopted a strategic plan. The plan includes four strategic priorities and built on three supporting actions to guide our work on behalf of the more than five million school children in our state.

***Mission: Every child, prepared for success in college, a career, or the military.***

**Strategic Priorities**

* Recruit, support, and retain teachers and principals.
* Build a foundation of reading and math
* Connect high school to career and college
* Improve low-performing schools

**Enablers**

* Increase transparency, fairness, and rigor in district and campus academic and financial performance
* Ensure compliance, effectively implement legislation, and inform policymakers
* Strengthen organizational foundations (resource efficiency, culture, capabilities, partnerships)

**TTU K-12 Overview**

**Texas Tech University (TTU)** is a Division One comprehensive public research university in Lubbock Texas.

* TTU is the major institution of higher education in a region larger than 46 of the nation’s 50 states and is the only campus in Texas that is home to a major university, law school, and medical school. In 2022, it will add a veterinary school to that mix.
* TTU current student enrollment is over 40,000 students.
* eLearning and Academic Partnerships (eLAP) is a division of TTU’s Office of the Provost housing academic programs that are delivered at a distance. There are over 80 graduate and undergraduate degree programs available fully online.
* eLAP also includes Academic Partnerships, Regional Sites, Ollie, and Continuing Education.

**TTU K-12** is an organization within the TTU division of eLearning and Academic Partnerships, benefitting from its association with TTU in many ways. Some of these include:

* Research-based best practices in online learning
* Instructional design
* Institutional research
* Data analytics
* Instructional technology
* Technology support
* Professional conferences
* Content expertise

**TTU K-12 Background**

* TTU K-12 was established as a “Special Purpose District” in 1993 by the Texas Legislature and the State Board of Education to serve students whose educational needs were not adequately met by traditional school districts.
* Since 1993, TTU K-12 has transitioned to a fully online program serving over 460,000 students from 71 countries around the world.
* Our rigorous college-ready curriculum serves Kindergarten through 12th grade students and allows them to work ahead, make up failed credits, test out of courses, and graduate with a Texas High School Diploma.
* Our program is 100% virtual, with asynchronous instruction. We have no physical presence through which we serve students.
* Our program is approved by the Texas Education Agency and our courses are approved by the NCAA.
* In 2019, HB 3 included a provision that TTU K-12 is eligible to receive state funding.
* In 2020, Texas added Texas Education Code §61.101 identifying TTU K-12 as a special purpose school district operated by a major university.
* We currently offer four distinct options for students:
  + - Tuition-free full-time program for Texas residents
    - Tuition-paid full-time program
    - Supplemental program and Credit by Examinations
    - International Partnership program
  + The Tuition-free full-time program for Texas Residents began in August 2021.
  + We are reporting PEIMS for the 2021-2022 school year but did not report PEIMS prior. Therefore, there is no baseline data for comparison purposes and improvement planning currently.

**Note: This District Improvement Plan will focus on the state-funded Tuition-free full-time program only. We do not receive any federal funding.**

**TTU K-12 District Goals**

* Strengthen the academic program K - 12 to maximize success for all students.
* Strengthen TTU K-12’s tradition of excellence based on pride, teamwork, and professionalism.
* Promote TTU’s tradition of excellence to parents, alumni, and surrounding community.
* Provide excellent customer service.
* Implement quality online course design.
* Provide outstanding instructor facilitation and feedback.
* Define expectations and provide training for all staff.
* Expand curriculum offerings.
* Align with state testing program and reporting requirements.
* Increase efficiencies and effectiveness using available technology tools.
* Conduct course analytics and use data for improvement.
* Implement quality assurance processes for continual improvement.

**Comprehensive Needs Assessment**

TTU K-12 conducted a comprehensive needs assessment in 2020-2021. This needs assessment was conducted in partnership with Cognia, an accreditation organization for online programs. Cognia utilizes a continuous improvement system to provide systemic, fully integrated solutions for improvement. As part of this accreditation process, surveys were sent to parents, teachers, students, and other stakeholders. Each course contains a course evaluation survey from which we gather data for improvement purposes. We conducted focus meetings with teachers, parents, and students in August 2021. Many additional data sources were analyzed and used in recommendations. The Cognia Digital Learning Accreditation Engagement Review is attached.

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| **DISTRICT GOAL #1:** To strengthen the academic program K through 12 to maximize success for all students. | | | |
| **PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE #1: Curriculum Alignment**   * TTU K-12 students will meet or exceed state averages on all STAAR tests. * All courses will provide instruction clearly aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). * All courses will utilize regular classroom assessments to measure the progress of each student toward mastery of the TEKS and determine appropriate interventions to ensure mastery of that objective. * All teachers will utilize intervention strategies for use with struggling students | | | |
| **Strategies/Activities** | **Staff Responsible** | **Resources** | **Evaluations** |
| 1.1.1 Implement clear course development processes to ensure alignment to TEKS and quality course design. | * Curriculum team | State and local funds | * Formative: Student course evaluation feedback * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.1.2 Identify and implement intervention strategies for use with struggling students. | * Principal * Assistant Principals * Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Screening and diagnostic assessment data * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.1.3 Provide targeted instructional feedback to students as they progress through their coursework. | * Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Course assignment scores * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.1.4 Implement tutoring and virtual office hours to assist struggling students. | * Principal * Assistant Principals * Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Course assignment scores * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.1.5 Provide targeted Tier II and Tier III acceleration opportunities for students failing to master academic objectives | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Teachers |  |  |
| 1.1.5 Provide targeted professional development to improve student achievement. | * Region 17 ESC * Principal * Assistant Principals * Lead Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Professional development records * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.1.6. Hire, retain, and develop a highly qualified staff. | * Principal * Assistant Principals | State and local funds | * Formative: Staff turnover rate, teacher observations, student retention rate * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |

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| **PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE #2: Post-Secondary Success and Career Technology Education (CTE)**   * 1. All secondary students will maximize options for post-secondary success.      + District will address College and Career Readiness standards      + District will prioritize advanced coursework and career preparation      + District will emphasize importance of completing Distinguished Graduation plans      + District will offer a variety of CTE options for endorsement areas of the Recommended and Distinguished Graduation Plans. | | | |
| **Strategies/Activities** | **Staff Responsible** | **Resources** | **Evaluations** |
| 1.2.1 Provide ACT and SAT prep courses and activities | * Curriculum team * Advisors | State and local funds | * Formative: Student completion of prep courses and activities * Summative: SAT and ACT scores |
| 1.2.2 Increase the number of AP courses offered and the number of students opting to take them. | * Curriculum team * Advisors | State and local funds | * Formative: Number of AP courses and AP enrollments * Summative: AP course completion rates, AP test scores |
| 1.2.3 Increase the number of courses offered in each endorsement area of the Recommended and Distinguished Graduation Plans | * Curriculum team * Advisors | State and local funds | * Formative: Number of courses in each endorsement area and enrollments in those courses * Summative: Endorsement areas completed |
| 1.2.4 Improve communication with parents and students about   * Financial aid/scholarship opportunities * College entry opportunities for students who graduate in the top 10% * Opportunities and aid available to students who graduate on Distinguished plans | * Principal * Assistant Principals * Advisors | State funds | * Formative: Documented communication * Summative: Graduation plans earned; scholarships awarded; college acceptance obtained |
| 1.2.5 Expand Career and Technology Education courses offered to prov ide quality career preparation | * Curriculum Team | State funds | * Formative: Number of CTE courses offered * Summative: Completion numbers and completion rates of CTE courses |

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| **PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE #3: Health, Attendance, High School Completion, Safety**  1.3 District focus on comprehensive child health, safety, and well-being will improve course progress rates and retention rates   * Course completion rates for all students and student subpopulations will be greater than 80% * Drop-out rates for all students and student subpopulations will be less than 0.5% | | | |
| **Strategies/Activities** | **Staff Responsible** | **Resources** | **Evaluations** |
| 1.3.1 Closely monitor student progress and implement communication strategies to encourage progress when needed. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Progress Specialist | State and local funds | * Formative: Documented communication with students not making adequate progress * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.3.2 Identify and implement positive behavior supports. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Teachers | State and local funds | * Formative: Documented implementation of positive behavior supports * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.3.3 Create and implement opportunities to build a sense of community for students. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Teachers | State and local funds | * Formative: Participation in opportunities * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |
| 1.3.4 Provide targeted support for students with identified needs such as dyslexic, 504, special education, pregnant, parenting, | * Principal * Assistant Principals * Advisors * Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Documented support activities * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |
| 1.3.5 Provide targeted Tier II and Tier III intervention opportunities for students failing to master academic objectives | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Documented intervention activities * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |
| 1.3.5 Provide targeted professional development to support student needs and to improve student achievement. | * Region 17 ESC * Principal * Assistant Principals * Lead Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Professional development records * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |
| 1.3.6 Provide instruction and activities targeting comprehensive student health, including ensuring a state-approved TEKS-based health curriculum | * Principal * Assistant Principals | State and local funds | * Formative: Documented activities, enrollment in Health courses * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |

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| **PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE #4: Special Populations**  1.4 Students qualifying for special populations will receive appropriate services, will make progress in courses and will perform at or above state averages on STAAR. These special populations include:   * Dyslexia * 504 * Special Education * Gifted and Talented * ESL * Migrant | | | |
| **Strategies/Activities** | **Staff Responsible** | **Resources** | **Evaluations** |
| 1.4.1 Closely monitor student progress and implement communication strategies to encourage progress when needed. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Progress Specialist | State and local funds | * Formative: Documented communication with students not making adequate progress * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.4.2 Identify and implement screening and diagnostic assessments. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Teachers * Diagnostician | State and local funds | * Formative: Documented implementation of positive behavior supports * Summative: Course completion rates, STAAR scores |
| 1.4.3 Provide targeted support for students with identified needs such as dyslexic, 504, special education, pregnant, parenting. | * Principal * Assistant Principals * Advisors * Teachers * Diagnostician | State funds | * Formative: Documented support activities * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |
| 1.4.4 Provide targeted Tier II and Tier III intervention opportunities for students failing to master academic objectives | * Principal * Assistant Principals * Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Documented intervention activities * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |
| 1.4.5 Provide targeted professional development to support student needs and to improve student achievement. | * Region 17 ESC * Principal * Assistant Principals * Lead Teachers | State funds | * Formative: Professional development records * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |

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| **DISTRICT GOAL #2: To strengthen TTU K-12’s tradition of excellence based on customer support, teamwork, and improvement in processes.** | | | |
| **PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE #1: Improve customer support.**  2.1 Improve customer support, satisfaction, and teamwork throughout the organization. | | | |
| **Strategies/Activities** | **Staff Responsible** | **Resources** | **Evaluations** |
| 2.1.1 Closely monitor call center volume, response time, and escalations. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Progress Specialist * Operations team | State and local funds | * Formative: Documentation regarding call volume, response time, and escalations * Summative: Student retention rate |
| 2.1.2 Develop communication strategies to build teamwork and collaboration among staff. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Teachers | State and local funds | * Formative: Documentation of communication strategies * Summative: Staff retention and satisfaction surveys |
| 2.1.3 Create and implement opportunities to build a sense of community for students. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Teachers | State and local funds | * Formative: Participation in opportunities * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention |

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| **PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE #2: Operations and Processes**  2.2: Improve efficiencies and effectiveness throughout the organization. | | | |
| **Strategies/Activities** | **Staff Responsible** | **Resources** | **Evaluations** |
| 2.2.1 Closely monitor processes and operations to identify areas of improvement. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Advisors * Operations team * Curriculum team | State and local funds | * Formative: Documented efforts to improve efficiencies and effectiveness. * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention, student and staff surveys, course evaluations. |
| 2.2.2 Identify technology tools that would enhance processes. | * Principal * Assistant Principal * Operations team | State and local funds | * Formative: Documented efforts to identify technology tools. * Summative: Course completion rates, student retention, call center volume, student and staff surveys, course evaluations. |