

# VISD P-TECH/ T-STEM Entrance Agreement

## About the VISD P-TECH/ T-STEM Pathways:

The Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH) and Texas- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics(T-STEM) are open to students who are completing the 8th grade and will be promoted to the 9th grade for the 2022-2023 school year. Students interested in joining a P-TECH/ T-STEM must commit to completing the P-TECH/ T-STEM pathway offered by Victoria ISD. Enrollment is limited to 25 students for each P-TECH/ T-STEM. The VISD Healthcare P-TECH and T-STEM will be housed at Victoria East High School. P-TECH in Education and Training and the P-TECH in Computer Science will be housed at Victoria West High School. Students will attend classes at the campus where the P-TECH/ T-STEM is housed. Some courses will also be taken at Victoria College and or the University of Houston - Victoria. P-TECH/ T-STEM students will be provided transportation if they live more than two miles from Victoria East High School or Victoria West High School.

Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Texas- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics(T-STEM) blends high school and college coursework, providing students the opportunity to earn an industry certification and college hours toward an Associate degree or Bachelor degree, at no cost to the student or his/her family. Industries chosen for P-TECH/ T-STEM are in-demand, high-wage jobs in the local community. VISD's P-TECH and T-STEM are committed to providing a college-going and work-based learning environment where students earn a high school diploma, as well as one or more of the following:

- Industry based certifications
- Associate degree
- Complete college courses for an advanced degree

While all students will have access to the programs, the core mission of P-TECH/ T-STEM is to give prospective first-generation and other students typically underrepresented in higher education a no-cost option to earn a two-year college degree and postsecondary certifications, allowing them to go into the workforce or transfer to a four-year college or university. There is no cost to the student or their family. All tuition, books, and fees for courses that are a part of the P-TECH/T-STEM course of study are paid for by VISD while the student is enrolled in P-TECH/ T-STEM. If a student chooses to pursue additional hours outside of the course of study, all tuition, book and fees will be the responsibility of the student. Additionally, VISD will not pay tuition, fees, or books for courses the student must repeat due to failing grades, attendance or other reasons.

## **Eligibility**

P-TECH/ T-STEM is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade VISD students who are motivated and willing to commit to a four-year program. If more than 25 students sign up, the district will use a lottery system to select students. While there are no pre-requisites for eligibility, a student must be dedicated and committed to earning an Associate Degree or core college credit and post-secondary certifications, while earning a high school diploma.

## **P-TECH/T-STEM Admissions Policy Statement**

The VISD P-TECH/ T-STEM pathways have an open enrollment admissions policy and adheres to the Victoria Independent School District's Nondiscrimination Policy outlined in FB (Legal). The school also adheres to the Texas Education Agency's P-TECH and T-STEM blueprint, which requires that enrollment decisions not be based on state assessment scores, discipline history, teacher recommendation, parent or student essays, minimum grade point average (GPA), or other criteria that create barriers for student enrollment.

To maintain P-TECH/ T-STEM designation status, the P-TECH/ T-STEM shall identify, recruit, and enroll subpopulations of at-risk students (as defined by the Public Education Information Management System), including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, and students who have failed a state administered assessment. The P-TECH/ T-STEM shall identify, recruit, and enroll subpopulations that are historically underrepresented in college courses (e.g., first-generation college goers, students of low socioeconomic status, and students who identify as African American, Hispanic, or Native American). If the P-TECH/ T-STEM has more applicants than available space for admissions, a weighted lottery system will be used that favors students who are at risk or who are part of the targeted subpopulations for the P-TECH/ T-STEM.

## **Selection Process**

During the regular course selection process in the spring, students will indicate on their 9<sup>th</sup> grade course selection sheet that they would like to be considered for a P-TECH/ T-STEM pathway. A weighted lottery system will be used to determine the students selected for the 2022-2023 for the respective P-TECH/ T-STEM cohort.

Students will be notified they have been selected to participate. Parents are an important part of the process and need to demonstrate their support. Therefore, parents of selected students will be required to attend an orientation meeting.

## **Student Supports**

P-TECH/ T-STEM teachers and support teams are dedicated to support student achievement. AVID strategies, on how to organize, study, plan, take notes and manage time, are incorporated in all high school courses. College and career advising is also provided to discuss and plan future career and educational options and opportunities.

## Industry Partners

Our regional business partners are committed to serving as mentors for students throughout the program, meeting with them in person, as well as guiding internships and putting graduates in line for jobs within their companies. Participating partners are: Citizens Medical Center and Victoria ISD.

## Parent and Student Commitments

Students and parents must be willing to commit to the following items if the student enrolls into the P-TECH program:

The student will adhere to all rules and policies established by Victoria Independent School District, Victoria College, and industry partners.
The student will devote the necessary amount of effort and time to complete one of the P-TECH/ T-STEM Course of Study plans with the goal of earning an associate degree, post-secondary certificate, or industry certification while completing high school.
The student and parent/guardian understand P-TECH/ T-STEM is an accelerated program, and the student will enroll in advanced courses. The student and parent can expect the student to have homework daily.
The student and parent/guardian understand that when the student enrolls in a dual credit course, he/she is a Victoria ISD student and a college student. The grades earned in dual credit courses will be added to the student's high school transcript and student's collegiate grade point average (GPA) will stay with the student after high school.
The student and parent/guardian understand that if the student fails a dual credit course and chooses to retake the course, the student will be responsible for paying the cost of the tuition and any related fees to retake the course. Some dual credit courses are pre-requisites for other dual credit courses. The student must meet course pre-requisites before advancing to the next course. If a student fails a pre-requisite, the student must retake the course and his/her own expense and time before advancing to the next course.
The student and parent/guardian understand that students are admitted in a cohort. Students might be required to take courses during the summer to remain in the cohort (for high school graduation requirements or dual credit courses) to remain with his/her cohort.
The student and parent/guardian understand that the student must meet college admission requirements and course registration requirements.
The parent/guardian supports the student's decision to participate in the P-TECH program and understands that satisfactory progress, demonstrating self-discipline, and regular attendance is an expectation for all students in the P-TECH/ T-STEM program. The parent/guardian agrees to support the student in these efforts.

The parent/guardian understands the student will be put on a growth plan if he/she is not meeting academic, attendance, professional, or behavioral expectations. If the student does not successfully fulfill the requirements of the growth plan, the student will be removed from the program. Administrators have the discretion for immediate removal from the program for a significant violation of the code of conduct or workplace regulations.
The student and parent/guardian understand the student must meet work-based learning expectations, including but not limited to: background checks, immunizations, behavior expectations and dress code standards. There will be no cost to families for these expectations.
The student and parent/guardian understand there will be additional requirements after school on some days and in the summer. Students will need to attend tutoring after school.
The student and parent/guardian understand the students will be required to attend the Summer Bridge program. This years' Summer Bridge is from July 27-July 30.

## Parent and Student Commitments and Acceptance

Students and parents must be willing to commit to the following items if the student enrolls into the P-TECH program. By initialing the following statements, you are indicating you agree to the following commitments:

Student Initials	Parent/Guardian Initials	The student will adhere to all rules and policies established by Victoria Independent School District, Victoria College, and industry partners.
		The student will devote the necessary amount of effort and time to complete one of the P-TECH/ T-STEM Course of Study plans with the goal of earning an associate degree, post-secondary certificate, or industry certification while completing high school.
		The student and parent/guardian understand P-TECH/T-STEM is an accelerated program, and the student will enroll in advanced courses. The student and parent can expect the student to have homework daily.
		The student and parent/guardian understand that when the student enrolls in a dual credit course, he/she is a Victoria ISD student and a college student. The grades earned in dual credit courses will be added to the student's high school transcript and student's collegiate grade point average (GPA) will stay with the student after high school.
		The student and parent/guardian understand that if the student fails a dual credit course and chooses to retake the course, the student will be responsible for paying the cost of the tuition and any related fees to retake the course. Some dual credit courses are pre-requisites for other dual credit courses. The student must meet course pre-requisites before advancing to the next course. If a student fails a pre-requisite, the student

		must retake the course and his/her own expense and time before advancing to the next course.
		The student and parent/guardian understand that students are admitted in a cohort. Students might be required to take courses during the summer to remain in the cohort (for high school graduation requirements or dual credit courses).
		The student and parent/guardian understand that the student must meet college admission requirements and course registration requirements.
		The parent/guardian supports the student's decision to participate in the P-TECH/ T-STEM program and understands that satisfactory progress, demonstrating self-discipline, and regular attendance is an expectation for all students in the P-TECH/ T-STEM program. The parent/guardian agrees to support the student in these efforts.
		The parent/guardian understands the student will be put on a growth plan if he/she is not meeting academic, attendance, professional, or behavioral expectations. If the student does not successfully fulfill the requirements of the growth plan, the student will be removed from the program. Administrators have the discretion for immediate removal from the program for a significant violation of the code of conduct or workplace regulations.
		The student and parent/guardian understand the student must meet work-based learning expectations and eligibility requirements, including but not limited to background checks, immunizations, behavior expectations and dress code standards. Students must complete pre-requisite activities to participate in work-based learning opportunities.
		The student and parent/guardian understand there will be additional requirements after school on some days and in the summer. There may also be additional requirements and expectations from Victoria College and the Healthcare facilities. Students will need to attend tutoring after school.
		The student and parent/guardian understand the students will be required to attend the Summer Bridge program. This years' Summer Bridge is from June 1-3, 2022.

## Acceptance of P-TECH Opportunity

I agree/do not agree to uphold the commitments necessary to be successful in the P-TECH program. I am accepting/not accepting my position as a member of the 2026 P-TECH/ T-STEM cohort.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date