

# SAMPLE LETTER

## DISTRICT LETTERHEAD

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August 24, 2016

Dear Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

This letter is to inform you about an opportunity that will assist your student in becoming more prepared for college. College Preparatory classes in English Language Arts and Mathematics will be offered in the 2016-17 school year. Successful completion of the course(s) will allow your student to receive a Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exemption, which means college developmental education courses will not be required.

Student performance data indicate your student may not be ready to perform entry-level college coursework. While the courses are not mandatory, they are recommended as an option for a student to be considered college-ready. Both college preparatory courses are full-year courses and earn 1.0 credit each.

Please indicate your decision by checking "Yes" or "No" below and returning this letter to the counseling office by \_\_\_\_\_.

College Preparatory English       YES     NO

College Preparatory Mathematics     YES     NO

For questions or additional details regarding these courses, please contact the school counselor at \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Principal

## **COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSE**

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **Are high schools required to offer a college prep course?**

Under Section 28.014 of the Texas Education Code, each school district is required to provide college preparatory courses in English language arts and mathematics.

#### **Are students required to enroll in college prep courses?**

School districts are required to provide notice to each student who meets eligibility criteria for the course; however, students are not required to enroll in the college preparatory course.

#### **What are the benefits of enrolling in the college prep class?**

Students who take college prep course(s) are better prepared for rigorous college classes. Additionally, students who successfully complete the class will be identified as college-ready and will not be required to provide other college readiness measures (TSI exempt). Students will not be required to take college developmental education (remedial) classes, which are costly in time and money. Research shows that students who enter college needing development education are less likely to graduate from college than those who do not.

#### **Which students need to enroll in the course? What are the prerequisites?**

The courses are designed for students in Grade 12 who have not met college readiness standards. To enroll in the college preparatory English course, students must meet the passing standard on the English Reading and Writing I and II End of Course (EOC) exams. For College Prep Mathematics, students must demonstrate successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, and one additional foundation mathematics credit and meet the passing standard on the Algebra I EOC.

#### **What does a student do when the class is successfully completed?**

The student will receive a certificate that indicates successful completion. The certificate and official copy of the final transcript need to be provided to the higher education institution. Successful completion of the course does not guarantee admission to a postsecondary institution.

#### **Will students receive high school credit for the course?**

Yes. Students will receive 1.0 credit for the full-year course.

#### **Will students receive college credit for the course?**

No. The college preparatory course is not a college course, and students do not earn college credit.

#### **Which higher education institutions will accept the course?**

The following institutions will accept the course as a measure of college readiness: Coastal Bend College, Del Mar College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, University of Texas at Brownsville, University of Texas-Pan American, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, South Texas College, Texas Southmost College, Texas State Technical College, Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International University.

#### **How can I find out more information?**

Contact your school's counselor or visit the website <http://hb5.esc2.net/>