Module 2: AVATAR: Common Foundations and Data for Understanding College and Career Readiness and Success

**Suggestions for Coordinators/Facilitators Using Module 2**

1. **Goals of this Module**

**The Vertical Alignment Team (VAT) participants will**

1. **Gain a working definition of Career and College Readiness that is consistent with the work of David T. Conley and foundational to the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS).**
2. **Acquire a common language and understandings of the standards and assessments used in Texas to define College and Career Readiness in K-12 education, higher education, and across our two systems of education.**
3. **Explore the implications of regional data that indicate the college and career readiness and success of students in secondary and post-secondary education.**
4. **Compare the career and college readiness and success indicates of students from our region with the state data.**
5. **Define the action plan for the work of our regional VAT.**
6. The three major sections of the module are listed below with the resources for each.
7. Section A: What Is College and Career Readiness?

PowerPoint A1: Defining College and Career Readiness

Article: Conley, David T. Redefining College Readiness

Abstract: Conley, David T. College and Career Ready: Helping All Students Succeed Beyond High School

PowerPoint A2: Standards and Assessments for College and Career Readiness in Texas

Handout: Key Texas Standards and Assessments

1. Section B: **Indicators of Student Readiness and Success**

PowerPoint B1: Local Student Performance Data

Instruction Sheet: How to Prepare a Local Data Presentation

PowerPoint B2: State Student Performance Data

1. Section C: Action Planning

PowerPoint C: Action Planning

1. Before you start, assure that PowerPoint B1 is prepared using local data. How to do this is explained in the Instruction Sheet. In the partnership instructions, this job was assigned to the P-16 Council representative.
2. How you present Module 2 depends on the time and configuration of your Vertical Alignment Team meetings. Here are three alternatives.
3. Two 2-hour meetings

* Assign the Conley readings to be read before the first meeting.
* Show PowerPoint A1 “What is College and Career Readiness” at the first meeting, using the discussion ideas provided.
* Assign viewing and discussing PowerPoint A2 as homework in Moodle.
* Show and discuss PowerPoint B1 at the second meeting.
* Use PowerPoint B2 as a follow-up assignment in Moodle. Encourage participants to compare local to state date in corresponding windows or views with online discussion of what they see.
* Develop a working action plan using PowerPoint.

1. One 4 hour meeting

* Assign the Conley reading to be read before the first meeting.
* Use PowerPoint A1 to lead discussion of “What is Career and College Readiness?”
* Distribute the handout, “Key Texas Standards and Assessments,” and assign independent viewing of PowerPoint A2 for more information and online discussion.
* Show and discuss PowerPoint B1.
* Develop a working action plan using PowerPoint C.
* Show simultaneously PowerPoint B1 on one screen and B2 on another . This extends discussion of the local data through state comparison.
* Revisit your action plan in light of the comparative presentation.

1. One 2-hour meeting

* Assign reading of the Conley articles and viewing of PowerPoint A2 as homework to be completed before the meeting.
* View and discuss PowerPoint A1.
* View and discuss PowerPoint B1.
* Make PowerPoint B2 available for follow-up discussion in a digital format.
* Develop a working action plan using Powerpoint C.

1. Procedures of Presentation

**Before the Meeting**

1. Ask participants to read the Conley article and abstract. Copies of these handouts should be made available for each participant during the session, as well. Anticipating the jigsaw activity in Slides 7 and 8, you might ask individuals to come prepared to report to the group certain issues . This will save time during the session.
2. If you do not plan to show PowerPoint A2 during the session, make it available to participants ahead of time using Moodle or use the handout at the meeting, and make the PowerPoint available afterward using Moodle.
3. Have the local data PowerPoint ready to be presented at this meeting.
4. If you plan to use the state comparison data, set up the room so that two PowerPoints can be viewed on side by side screens.
5. As you work at this session, be sure to keep good notes about action suggestions made by group members. Refer to this list as you contemplate your most important task: developing a group action plan that is relevant and important!

**Section A: What Is College and Career Readiness?**

1. PowerPoint A1: Defining Career and College Readiness. As participants view the PowerPoint, the following slides call for discussion or response from participants. Using this PowerPoint with reading and discussion will take 45 to 60 minutes.

Slide 4. Discuss briefly who is responsible for getting students college and career ready?

Slide 5: How well did you anticipate this response? Who did you leave out?

Slide 6: Anticipating the listed questions, which one do participants feel most ready to answer now on the basis of their reading and experience?

Slide 7: Divide the group into groups of 2 or 3, and, using the jigsaw method, assign each group to report on one or two of the assigned topics.

Slide 8: Report key findings from the jigsaw groups.

Slide 9: In dyads or triads, ask participants respond to the question listed on the slide. These call for reflection on their own personal experiences as first time in college students.

Slide 10: This slide calls for participants to review copies of the abstract of *College and Career Reading: Helping all Students Succeed Beyond High School.*

Slide 13: In the dyads or triads used earlier, use sentence completion as a means for participants to reflection on how their ideas have changed.

Slides 14-18. Which of these College and Career Readiness skills are emphasized in high school? How do you know?

Slide 20: Have each participant list 5 items with an elbow partner.

Slide 21: How well did you anticipate the career skills preferred by employers?

Slide 22: PowerPoint A2: Standards and Assessments for College and Career Readiness in Texas will help you to answer these questions.

1. PowerPoint A2: Standards and Assessments for College and Career Readiness in Texas.

This PowerPoint includes a lot of important information for all participants. The tools for measuring Texas secondary and post-secondary performances are changing rapidly.

If this PowerPoint is shown in a group setting, point out that at the end of the presentation, participants will be asked to note 3 learnings, 2 questions, and an action they will take. Compare and contrast the learnings, questions, and anticipated actions of the group. If the participants view the PowerPoint electronically, set up a discussion tool by which these same questions may be discusses. Use the actions planned as part of a later discussion of action planning for the group. Be sure to save group notes about the anticipated actions of the members.

**Section B: Indicators of Student Readiness and Success**

1. PowerPoint B1: Local Student Performance Data. As you begin, assign individuals to look for the answers to the listed questions. Show the PowerPoint slowly, allowing time for discussion and questions.

After this presentation, discuss action. What are the implications for action based study of the data? What questions do we have? Be sure to save the suggestions for action from this discussion.

1. PowerPoint B2: State Student Performance Data is meant to be viewed side by side with B1 in a separate session. Viewing may take place in a group or by an individual who can view the two sets of slides simultaneously either in separate windows or with one set printed while the other is projected.

**Section C: Action Planning**

1. Good notes taken earlier in the meeting will help with this section, for which the guiding question should be “What action should be taken by our group to better assure college and career readiness in our region?” PowerPoint C offers suggestions for the collection of additional local data that might be important.