

College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR) Plan

The state of Texas requires public schools to develop a College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR) plan to ensure that students are prepared to succeed in various paths after high school. Traditional public school districts and charter schools with high school grades must design extensive plans which include specific measures and indicators of such readiness based on data sources including high school graduation rates based on diploma types, dual college credits earned, industry-based certifications or licensures awarded, and other criteria.

Rise Academy is a prek-3 through 8th grade charter school. As such, we do not generate the above data that only a school offering the grades 9th through 12th would produce.

However, we do describe Rise Academy as a college preparatory school. So, what can we offer to demonstrate that we are developing our students to succeed first in high school, and later either in college, in a non-college career, or in the military?

The most concrete indicator of our students' CCM readiness is our long history of strong and consistent STAAR scores, including going back to the state's pre-STAAR assessments known as the TAKS tests. Since the implementation of the state's A-F Academic Accountability System, Rise has earned an 'A' each year. Prior to the current system, Rise was designated as an "Exemplary" school under the TAKS accountability criteria.

A second marker of Rise students' readiness for success is their high rate of acceptance into the Early College program at Lubbock ISD's Estacado High School. Lubbock ISD's Early College program is a collaboration with Texas Tech University to offer as much as a year and a half of college credit if a student completes the full scope of the program.

The foundation for Rise Academy student success begins with an early immersion in academics, starting in our Pre-k classrooms. Many of the skills mastered by our pre-k 4 students are not taught elsewhere until kindergarten. By the end of their kindergarten year, most Rise students are reading what we call the "fast way," meaning they are reading basic passages from our Reading Mastery program with fluency, rather than just merely sounding out words. Kindergarten students should also be able to add and subtract single-digit

numbers, tell time to the half hour, and count coins of the same value by the end of the year.

This early academic immersion then prepares students to work with our rigorous core curriculum prior to and throughout the STAAR-tested grades. Rise students build a solid foundation in subjects such as reading/LA, mathematics, science and social studies.

Beyond academics, the Rise program compels students to develop skills such as time management (due to homework requirements) and necessary student study habits. Former Rise graduates sometimes comment that the workload at Rise while in junior high was greater than what they experienced or are experiencing in their ISD high school.

Finally, Rise teachers and administrators work to instill an ethos of excellence in the academy's students. Students recite the "Rise Pledge" daily after the Texas and US Pledges of Allegiance. The Rise Pledge stresses the importance of "hard work, effort and persistence" while striving to rise above mediocrity in the pursuit of excellence.