

Guide to Selecting AchieveTexas Best Practices

First and foremost, the school and/or local district should be moving towards implementing the steps as outlined in the AchieveTexas Implementation Guide. At this early stage in the initiative, it will be unlikely that all steps are implemented, but rather districts may be addressing some of the steps very well.

Below is a list of criteria that expands upon the implementation steps. Please check the criteria as appropriate for the school and/or district. Not all categories need to be checked to be selected as a best practice. For example, a district might be selected because it is addressing implementation very well or in a unique way.

- Building a local college and career program which is based on the 16 Career Clusters.
- Developing programs of study which lead to high-skill, high-wage, or high demand occupations in current or emerging occupations.
- Seeking input and support from stakeholders such as faculty, parents, business and industry, and postsecondary partners.
- Building and improving partnerships with local business and industry.
- Building and improving partnerships involving secondary and postsecondary education.
- Implementing career awareness and exploration before high school.
- Ongoing data collection including qualitative and quantitative data for student success, dropouts, graduation, transitions, and remediation. Using student outcomes for planning and decision-making with an emphasis on local program improvement.
- Providing professional development—creating a college going culture by implementing targeted professional development for all teachers/faculty, administrators, and counselors to improve teaching/learning and integration of rigorous academic and career and technical knowledge and skills.
- Providing students with quality career guidance and academic planning on the local level.
- Creating and implementing a personal graduation plan for students, based on the Texas Achievement Plan (TAP) framework.
- Utilizing the Recommended High School Program or the Distinguished Achievement High School Program as a basis for developing the personal graduation plan.
- Providing opportunities for students to earn college credit through dual credit, including local or statewide articulated courses, AP or IB courses.
- Connecting extended learning opportunities to personal career goals—students have multiple extended learning opportunities including Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) and curricular experiences, career preparation experiences, extracurricular activities, and service learning.
- Collaborating efforts of academic and career and technical educators to improve teaching and learning and to implement rigorous programs of study.