TECH PREP

INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS TECH PREP?

- A high school sequential program of study which leads to a minimum of a two year postsecondary certificate or degree, with an option of two additional years leading to a baccalaureate degree.
- Four years of high school articulating to a vocational/technical center.
- Career pathways in Business Technology Education, Agriscience/Natural Resources, Health Science Education, Diversified/Marketing Education, Technology Education, Industrial Education, Family and Consumer Science, and more.
- A high school sequential course of study that builds students' competencies in communications, mathematics, social sciences, and science by integrating core academics and applied technology.
- Preparation for immediate employment in an increasingly competitive and technical work force.
- Relevance of student course of study in high school and postsecondary levels to their interests and abilities.

WHO IS THE TECH PREP STUDENT?

- Students in the middle majority* who typically select general education programs of study.
- Those interested in career technical fields that require postsecondary education.
- Those who wish to pursue a two-year certificate program or an Associate degree, which can lead to a baccalaureate degree.

   *Those students who score in the two middle quartiles in national testing.

WHERE IS TECH PREP OFFERED?

- All Miami-Dade County Public Schools senior high schools are involved in TECH Prep.
- Special centers: Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) Outreach Center
- Miami-Dade County vocational-technical centers: Lindsey Hopkins, Miami Lakes Educational Center, and Robert Morgan Educational Center.
- The seven campuses of Miami Dade College.

WHY DO WE NEED TECH PREP?*

- Of the 64 percent of the students in high school who do go on to college, only 20 percent complete a baccalaureate degree within four years.
- Students who take one math class beyond Algebra II more than double the odds of completing college.
- Approximately 65 percent of future jobs will require education beyond high school.
- Only four (4) percent of new jobs can be filled by people with the lowest skill levels.
- Employment is expected to grow faster for technicians and related support occupations than for any other major occupational group between now and the year 2008.
- The largest growth area of 99 percent will be for computer systems analysts, engineers, and scientists.
- Seventy (70) percent of the 20 fastest growing occupations require two years at the postsecondary level and 30 percent will require a baccalaureate degree or higher level of training.
- The typical job in the southeast requires almost 14 years of formal education.
- Career-relevant academic skills must become a focus in the curriculum of American secondary schools.
- The average yearly income of a worker with an associate (two-year) college degree is $7,000 more than that of a high school graduate.

*All information is taken from the *Occupation Outlook Update, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Inform students and parents about this opportunity.
- Monitor achievement in TECH Prep courses.
- Guide students into course selections that maintain sequence.
- Assist students in investigating career opportunities.
- Encourage students to pursue higher levels of achievement through selection of more challenging courses.

"Linking Today's Education with Tomorrow's Careers"

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools
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