

TRiO Works! @ BC Newsletter
Fall 2014 Edition



Visit www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/talentsearch to for up-to-date information on ETS activities and events!

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Greetings ETS Community!

Welcome back! A new year means new opportunities!

The Educational Talent Search Program (ETSP) is excited to offer a variety of services to expand the knowledge, ambition, and overall college readiness of participants and their families. In addition to regularly scheduled tutorials, monthly college interactions, and access to quality Pre College Counselors, we have increased the array of opportunities to include more themed workshops, more mentor connections, and more ways to serve the community.

I hope each of you takes full advantage of the possibilities offered by ETSP. IF there is something you would like to do, stop by and tell me about it. We can make it happen together!

Sincerely,

Mr. Clarke
Project Director



Celebrating 50 Years of Talent Search: Part 1 –TRIO History

The creation of the TRIO programs began in 1964 with The Economic Opportunity Act in response to President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty. It first began with Upward Bound; its purpose was to help high-school students from low income families prepare and motivate them to pursue a postsecondary education. Talent Search, the second of the TRIO programs, was created as part of the Higher Education Act of 1965. As part of the act, new Educational Opportunity Grants were formed

(EOG), making it the first time ever that Federal scholarship money would be dispersed to students based on a low-income status. However, one of the problems faced early on in the program was in fact providing the new EOG funds to students in need. One key component of the Talent Search outreach program is to identify and support underprivileged students with the potential to succeed in higher education.

An early milestone in the history of the TRIO program was the Higher Education Amendments of 1968. This Act caused Upward Bound to shift from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Office of Education, joining Talent Search and a new program called Special Services for Disadvantaged Students (SSDS) in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. These three educational programs were the first “TRIO” created to help transition students into college.

In 1969 after Richard Nixon was elected President, arose another milestone in TRIO history, when instead of terminating the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and its programs, like many feared, he did the opposite and expanded the organization from Washington to ten new regional centers. While in the beginning the ten new Regional Commissioners were given total control to fund, defund, and administer programs for their area, without the need to appeal to Washington. This eventually changed when project directors and other TRIO employees of the programs formed state, followed by regional associations. and began to go to Washington themselves to speak to Congress on how the current legislation could be changed in order to make the programs more effective and efficient.

Parents: What You Need to Know

For parents with children in the 9th and 12th grade

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to high school! (Again) These four years set the stage for your child, as they

will soon enter college. As you will see, these years fly by, so time is of the essence. 9th to 12th grade carries important goals that should be shared between you and your child, to help them get closer to the next step. High school is a time of discovery, so it's important for you and your child to work together to become the person you know he/she is capable of becoming.

9th grade is the beginning of your child's college preparation. Addressing their plans for college and career interests is an important conversation to have. It is never too early to start a college savings account, and add to it on a regular basis. 9th grade is also the time for you to encourage your child to look into meaningful activities such as volunteering at a community center, debate team or joining an athletic team. Remind them that the depth of their involvement is more important than how many activities they participate in.

From 9th to 12th grade, it is important to monitor your child's academic progress, in terms of their study habits, and their grades which are recorded on their transcript. In your child's senior year, help them to file their FAFSA form through their website: www.fafsa.ed.gov. Encourage your child to attend college fairs and make trips to colleges of their choice. Use the summer prior to senior year to help your child make a calendar, which outlines deadlines for college and scholarship applications, SAT/ACT registration and tests dates, as well as other important dates. Working on their resume is also important during this time, as they will be looking into internships and other employment opportunities.

Whereas the 9th grade is the beginning chapter of your child's high school experience, the 12th grade is not only the conclusion, but the prelude to their college experience. Being involved in your child's activities in and out of school, will motivate them to make the best decisions academically, professionally and personally.

Preparing for the SAT

Taking the SAT is very important in your academic life. It gives colleges an outline of what you have learned during your high school years. Just like any other test, getting a high score on the SAT requires preparation, time, and lots of studying. Here are some tips to help you get ready on the day of the test:

1. Bring the required materials on the day of the test: a valid ID card, two sharpened no. 2 pencils, a calculator (both graphing and scientific types are acceptable!), directions to get to your test site, a watch, and light snacks (because you will receive breaks during the test).
2. Get a restful night's sleep and eat a well-balanced meal on the morning of the test.
3. Dress well enough that you won't feel too hot or cold during the test.
4. This test is TIMED!! Pace yourself so that you will be able to answer all the questions on the test.
5. Relax. It calms the body and clears the mind so that you will put down the right answers on the exam.

The SAT is divided into 3 main subjects, each with their own sections, which are the writing (short essay, identifying sentence errors, and improving sentences), math (multiple choice and student-produced responses), and critical reading (passage reading and sentence completions). Here are some steps you can take to get a high score on the test:

Writing

Read the question quickly and carefully, while paying close attention to the grammar and the punctuation so that you can gain a mental picture of the context of the question. Replace the underlined portion with the answer choices to see which one fits the best into the paragraph.

When finding sentence errors, look for the section that changes the meaning of the paragraph or

the one that physically looks like it doesn't fit into the paragraph.

For the essay, think about what you will write and to make sure that it relates to the prompt that you are given. You will receive a 0 for a paper that goes off-topic. Don't think too hard on the topic. You only have 25 minutes to write it. Limit the amount of supporting details that you will put in your essay. An outline of your essay is a good way to help you plan your essay and to stay on course with the prompt. Try to spend no more than 2-3 minutes creating one. After writing the essay, if you have any time left, PROOFREAD the essay. You may find errors that will change the meaning that you put into your essay.

Math

Read the entire problem carefully. Remove answers that you think, or know, will not fit into the problem. In word problems, the best way to solve them is by converting words into algebra that can be easily solvable. While looking at the answer choices, some problems have answers that follow a specific format. Make sure that your answer matches that form.

For the student-produced responses, make sure that you put in the answer in the correct format. The answer sheet can only hold 4 slots, so simplify your answer as best as you can. This is being graded by a machine that cannot tell the difference between $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $(31/2)$, so in situations like that, it's best to convert it into a decimal.

If you don't know the answer, skip it. You lose no points for omitting a question compared to a quarter of a point when you answer it wrong.

Critical Reading

Read the questions first, then the passage. While reading, you can run into the answers to the questions. Pay close attention to the topic sentences, generally located at the beginning of each paragraph. It can give you a better idea of what the passage is about. This section seems to

be the most difficult part of the test, generally because of the sentence completion portion. There will be a lot of words that most people would never know existed. Read the sentences carefully. Also, try to break the sentences into pieces so that you can get a clear understanding of the context of the sentence. Try filling in the blanks with the answer choices to see which one fits the best in the sentences. Some of the answer choices can be broken down so that if you don't know the meaning, you can get a sense of what it means. That can turn the tide in finding the right words to put in the sentences.

The SAT will put to the test everything that you have learned during your high school years. Following these steps will make sure that you will receive a high score on the test so that you will be able to apply to the college of your choosing.



Voices of the Many

As a show of gratitude, the students wrote letters explaining their various experiences at the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search, TRiO program this summer. The following letter is the combination of the letters from all of the students and truly summarizes how #TRiOWorks.

At the beginning of the program, we did not all have positive outlooks for the summer program. Most of us thought it would be just like school all over again and dreaded having to attend school during the summer. We just wanted to relax during these two months. Thankfully, our parents realized just how valuable this program is and signed us up anyway. This isn't surprising since "Parents know best". Now, I realize if I had stayed home all summer, I would have regretted it. Instead of being home all summer and doing nothing, I was able to sharpen my academic and social skills.

This program truly has its advantages. Thanks to the different classes offered in the program-Math, Reading, and Writing, I will be ahead of my class when I go back to school in September - especially when it comes to writing persuasive and informative essays , and solving absolute value and slope equations. Thanks to the numerous



spelling bees, I am more prepared for the SAT exam. As a rising senior, I was confused about the college financial aid process but thanks to the financial literacy class, I know about the different types of aid including loans and how to calculate interest.

The other rising freshmen students and I were happy to be surrounded by students who



were already in high school. The upperclassmen students were able to give us advice about the differences between high school and middle school and what we should expect within the next four years. It's hard to trust new people but I realized I could trust the staff as well as the other students in the program thanks to the trust building exercises we did. I was able to meet new people and I didn't expect

to do so but I have made friendships that will hopefully last long after the summer program ends.

Thanks to the showcase practices, I was able to find out just how talented some of my friends are, whether they are singing or dancing or playing music. We visited numerous colleges and fairs and I realized just how endless my options are when choosing a college. I learned about over a hundred different colleges after attending the Columbia College fair and what the requirements for getting accepted into those schools are. We visited colleges such as University of Albany, BMCC, and Old Westbury and received a tour of the Brooklyn College campus. I have new schools to add to my college list now after seeing what those colleges had to offer.

Talent Search is more than just an academic program and I am glad I decided to attend the summer program. We did more than just learn. We gained the confidence and support needed to reach for our goals. The program even gave us a chance to explore our inner non-academic talent by giving us a chance to perform in the showcase. Dancing and singing with friends in the showcase is a great way to end the program. The counselors always made us feel welcome, making it a privilege to be a part of this program. The staff was always ready and willing to help any student who needed it even if the issue wasn't an academic problem. The Talent Search staffs were all great and supportive mentors in this program and quite frankly the best mentors I've ever had. This was one of my most productive summers ever and we're all happy that we decided to join TRiO. This program should be done every summer and we definitely plan on continuing in September. Thank you once again.



1st SEMESTER CALENDAR

For more details about events, please speak to an ETS Counselor.

NOVEMBER 2014

4	College Tour	Visit Brooklyn College, CUNY. Is this the right college for you? Learn about special programs, admission requirements and see the campus! Meet at Brooklyn College 9:00AM – 2:30PM For All Grades Registration Required.
6	Parent Meeting #2	Topic: Budgeting Now – College Later Brooklyn College, Ingersoll Hall 2424 6:30PM For ALL Grades
11	Community Service: Veteran’s Day Parade	Speak to your ETS Pre-College Counselor for more details.
27 & 28	Holiday: Thanksgiving Day	The ETS office will be closed.

DECEMBER 2014

11	Last Day of Tutorials	Afterschool Tutorials will recess until February 2, 2015.
24 – 31	Winter Recess	The ETS office will be closed.

JANUARY 2015

1	Holiday: New Year’s Day	The ETS office will be closed.
15	Parent Meeting #3	Topic: To Be Announced Brooklyn College, Ingersoll Hall 2424 6:30PM For ALL Grades
19	Holiday: MLK Jr Day	The ETS office will be closed.
26 – 29	Regents Week	Good Luck!
TBD	College Tour	TBA

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