



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are Early College High Schools?**

Early College High Schools are small high schools from which students may leave with a two-year associate's degree or up to 60 college credits.

### **Does my student have to be in the Academically/Intellectually Gifted program to apply?**

No. Students and parents need only demonstrate a commitment to fully participate in an academically rigorous program.

### **What types of students do Early College High Schools serve?**

Early College High Schools focus on students for whom a smooth transition into postsecondary education is challenging: low-income students, English Language learners, at-risk, and first-generation, college-bound students. As per the **Texas Education Agency** guidelines (ECHS Blueprint, October 2013), districts should target and enroll students who fall under one or more of these categories. Second priority will be given to other students outside of these categories.

### **Will grades, attendance, and discipline be considered for admission?**

Yes. Grades, attendance, and discipline will be taken into consideration as part of a larger rubric for admission but will not be the determining factor for admission to the ECHS.

### **When my child starts taking college courses, will he/she be allowed to take any course(s) they want?**

No. Your child will enroll in college courses which are easily transferrable in most universities and college. The courses are selected from the General Education Curriculum (GEC) and are designed to ensure your child's ability to express him or herself better through critical thinking skills and to write and speak clearly.

**Will my child be allowed to participate in UIL, Sports, band, etc.?**

Yes. Your child will be able to participate in extracurricular activities so long as they are able to maintain passing grades and enroll in all required courses to satisfy high school and college requirements. The ECHS will offer clubs and organizations that are typically part of a collegiate environment but will not offer extracurricular activities.

**Will my child earn credits that will place him/her as a junior in college when officially enrolled?**

While your child is enrolled in the Early College High School program he/she can earn up to nearly two years of college credits; however, once the child is officially enrolled at his desired university, the transcript of college course credits will be evaluated to determine the number of credits which apply to his/her college classification.

**What are the benefits of my child participating in this type of high school program?**

Your child will experience an accelerated learning environment, engage in an academic program of rigor, and graduate from high school better prepared to complete a college degree. He/she will also receive academic and social support which is the foundation of a smaller learning environment.

**What course of study will my child be enrolled in?**

Your child will follow the course requirements for Interdisciplinary Studies. “Interdisciplinary” simply means that you are combining two or more academic disciplines or fields of study. Through South Texas College’s Interdisciplinary Studies Program, students are able to get a broad-based college education in multiple fields of study. Students can take classes in the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, computer applications and math.

**What restrictions apply to my child’s participation in this program?**

Your child must adhere to the rules, regulations, policies and procedures which are designed to govern his/her safety and overall successful high school and college campus life. Specifics on these practices will be shared with the parent and child at a required orientation session when your child enters high school and when your child officially enters college.

**Can my child be released from the Early College High School before he/she graduates?**

Yes. Dismissals will be handled on an individual basis; however, staff will do everything possible to ensure success of each student.