

Poteet ISD ECHS - Admission Policy & Process

Poteet's Early College High School follows a school within a school model. The primary focus is providing students from under-represented backgrounds (i.e. at-risk, low income, and/or first-generation college attendees) the opportunity to earn up to 60 college credits. This is done without incurring any cost to the student while the student is attending high school. We are required by the Texas Education Agency to target students from under-represented backgrounds; however, we encourage students of all backgrounds to apply.

Program Highlights

The educational partnership is between Poteet ISD and Palo Alto College (PAC).

- Students can earn up to 60 college credits that also satisfy high school graduation requirements.
- There is no cost to the families and students for tuition, textbooks, or associated course fees.
- Students can earn an associate's degree concurrently while earning their high school diploma.
- Students must meet the college-readiness standards in order to take college courses.
- Students attend face to face college classes during the day on the Palo Alto College campus when they are in their junior and senior year of high school.
- Students have access to college support services, such as: college advising, career counseling, free tutoring, use of facilities and are able to participate in events for free. They have the same privileges afforded to a traditional college student.

Eligibility

Students who are in 8th grade and meet one or more of the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- Any student entering 9th grade at Poteet High School for the upcoming school year.
- Students who are potentially a 1st generation college student (neither custodial parent has received a 4-year degree).
- Students who are at-risk of not completing high school or pursuing higher education after high school graduation.
- Students who are under-served in higher education.
- The student must have a desire to be a part of the ECHS program and explain this in writing on application.
- The student's parent and/or guardian must approve of their child's participation in the program.
- Both the parent/guardian and the student must agree to abide by the standards and policies of academic, attendance, and behavioral expectations.
- The ability to work cooperatively and be engaged in communication, leadership, critical thinking, problem solving, and making education a priority.

Process of Applying and Selection

1. Students and parents/guardians will complete the ECHS application, answer the designated questions and submit it. Submission can be done in person or by mail, to Poteet High School or Poteet Junior High School.
2. Only 30 slots are available in each cohort.
3. **All students will be placed in the lottery.** The first 25 students are chosen randomly and five will be selected from the remaining students to ensure Texas Education Agency requirements for the ECHS program are met. The cohort demographics must match closely with the demographics of Poteet ISD.
4. The committee will review applications for completion and the number of targeted criteria for each student. Criteria is based on guidelines established by the Texas Education Agency. The selection committee **may** consist of central office administration, campus administration, counselors, and teachers of the Poteet ISD. The Selection process can take up to seven business days to complete.
5. **Incomplete and late applications will be placed on a wait list.**
6. Selected applicants and their parents/guardians are notified within two weeks following the selection.
7. Selected students have two weeks to return all of the documents that were attached with their notification letter in order to be considered a participant in the ECHS program.
8. Students who were not selected, who were incomplete or late applicants; will be placed on a waitlist. In the event a selected student drops from the program prior to Summer Bridge, students on the waitlist will be placed in the lotto and notified if their name was selected.

Note: In accordance with the Texas Education Agency rules for ECHS Blueprint Benchmark 1, academics, discipline, state assessments and/or teacher recommendations cannot be considered in the selection process. Poteet ISD does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, transgender, disability, race, color, age or national origin as required by Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI.