

FISD Early College High School



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
Northeast Lakeview College



Fredericksburg ISD
Inspiring Excellence

Agenda

The purpose of today's meeting is to give students and families an overview of the Early College High School model. The presentation will include a response to the following questions:

1. What is Early College High School (ECHS)?
2. What is the difference between an ECHS vs. Traditional Dual Credit?
3. What are the ECHS logistics?
4. Who is the Higher Education Partner?
5. Where can I get more information about ECHS?



What is Early College High School?

Early College High School is an open enrollment, innovative model that was first approved by the Texas Education Agency in 2003. It is a partnership between a high school and a college that reduces barriers to college access. Early College High Schools target students who are the least likely to attend college. It is a unique and fantastic opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to an associate degree simultaneously!

Upon graduation, students have the option to transfer to a 4-year university to earn a bachelor's degree, go to a trade school, or begin an exciting career of their choice.



Why would I want to be a part of ECHS?

Being an ECHS student will:

- Give you a head start on your 4-year college degree
- Give you access to rigorous courses which fosters critical thinking skills
- Give you access to additional supports including organizational strategies and study skills to help you in your academic studies.
- Help you save money on college tuition



Logistics

- ECHS students will have the opportunity to earn up to 60 college hours and their associate degree **at no cost to the family.**
- Fredericksburg's Early College High School is a school within a school model. All classes will be taken at FHS.
 - Students who attend ECHS may still participate in extracurricular activities, take Advanced Placement courses, and even participate in clubs and organizations through FHS.
- FISD is partnering with Northeast Lakeview College (part of the Alamo Community College District).
 - College classes are taken through NLC using an asynchronous model.



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Traditional Dual Credit vs. ECHS

DUAL CREDIT	EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
Typically between 3 and 24 hours of credit	Offers up to 60 college credit hours
Students pay tuition if they don't receive a scholarship or financial assistance. Current cost- approximately \$113 each course.	Tuition is free for the students - the program is District funded
Choice selection	Structured sequence of courses leading to an associate degree
Typically offered in grades 11 and 12 (with a few exceptions)	Students begin taking two college courses in 9th grade.
Courses offered through a couple schools and formats (Dual Credit & OnRamps)	All courses are dual credit and available through Northeast Lakeview College.



Sample of ECHS Schedule:

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English 1	English 2	Algebra 2 or Pre-Cal	College Prep 4
Algebra 1 or Geometry	Geometry or Algebra 2	Physics or Anatomy	Elective
Biology or Chemistry	Chemistry or Physics	College Prep 3	Elective
Spanish 1 or 2	Spanish 2 or 3 (or elective)	Elective	Elective
PE/Athletics/Marching Band	College Prep 2	Elective	NLC Courses
College Prep 1	Athletics or Elective	NLC Courses	English 4 2322 & 2323
Elective	NLC Courses	English 3 1301 & 1302	College Algebra 1314
NLC Courses	Geography 1303	US History 1301 & 1302	Biology 1308 & 1323
Business Computer 1301	Arts 1301 or MUSIC 1306	Psychology 2301	Philosophy 1301
Learning Framework 1300	Intro Mass Comm 1307	Federal Government 2305	Texas Government 2306
	Interpersonal Comm (Speech) 1318		Economics 2301
TOTAL HS credits = 8.5 NLC Hours = 6	TOTAL HS credits = 8.5 NLC Hours = 12	TOTAL HS credits = 8.5 NLC Hours = 18	TOTAL HS credits = 9.5 NLC Hours = 24



Who is eligible to apply?

All 8th graders are eligible to apply.

Profile of an Early College High School Student might include...



Growth mindset / not afraid to accept a challenge



Dreams of becoming the first person in your family to attend college.



Good work ethic



Needs help overcoming barriers that might keep you from attending college



Application

Students must complete the Early College High School application to be considered for admission into the program. The application will be a google form that is posted on the website. **The application will open on January 8th and close on January 19th.**

As part of the application process, students are also required to participate in an interview with ECHS staff and attend an orientation meeting with a parent or guardian after acceptance.

Early College High Schools are designed so that students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education can experience a smooth transition to college; however, any 8th grade student regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity/race, etc. may apply. To comply with the ECHS blueprint from TEA, Fisd will implement a blind weighted lottery, if needed based on the number of applicants. The goal of the lottery is to be fair, equitable, and unbiased while targeting students who fulfill the mission of the Early College High School.



Contact Information

- ECHS Counselor -
 - Cayle Koennecke, caylek@fisd.org
- Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction -
 - Lori Maxcey, lorim@fisd.org, 830-997-9551

Website References:

- FISD ECHS -
 - www.fisd.org/echs
- NLC -
 - <https://www.alamo.edu/nlc/>
- TEA ECHS Info -
 - <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/early-college-high-school-echs>

