



## ECHS Frequently Asked Questions

**Early College High School at Wilmont J. Fraser Campus** (opening January 2025)  
63 Columbus Street, Charleston, SC 29403

**Trident Technical College (Palmer Campus)**  
66 Columbus Street, Charleston, SC 29403

### 1. What is Early College High School?

Early College is a partnership between CCSD and Trident Technical College. ECHS students complete traditional high school coursework and are enrolled in dual credit courses to earn both HS credit and college credit. Early College students attend classes on Early College's Wilmont J. Fraser Campus and TTC's Palmer Campus, downtown.

### 2. How can I apply?

All students must apply through CCSD School Choice. You can apply online at <https://schoolchoice.ccsdschools.com/>.

The 24-25 CCSD School Choice Application opens on January 14, 2025. The application deadline is February 21, 2025.

### 3. Will transportation be provided?

Yes, transportation will be provided for all CCSD students who attend Early College. Bus routes are published by First Student at the start of school. It is the family's responsibility to transport the child to a parent-assisted stop within 5 miles of the student's home address to meet the bus. There is no door-to-door transportation.

### 4. If my child has earned HS credit in middle school, will ECHS be able to offer the next class that they need, given the small size of the school?

Yes, we will ensure that all courses offered are the courses that each child needs in order to complete the core academic credits required to earn a high school diploma in the state of South Carolina.

### 5. Who is eligible to apply?

Any student may apply, however, applications will only be reviewed for eligible students. Students are eligible if they meet the following criteria as eighth graders:

Winter Lexile Score of at least 900

Winter MAP Math RIT Score of at least 225

### 6. What are the school day start and end times?

ECHS opens to students at 7:25 am each morning and homeroom starts at 7:45 am. Dismissal is at 2:45 pm.

**7. Can my child take elective classes at ECHS?**

Yes, your child will still earn elective credits, however, they will be earned through the college classes that your child takes in the 10th-12th grades. ECHS does not offer elective credits such as Band or ROTC.

**8. Will my child be able to participate in extracurricular activities at his/her home school?**

Yes, all students are able to participate in extracurricular activities at their home school. There is a bus stop at each home school in the afternoon to aid in the transition to practice and other after-school activities.

**9. Should my child apply if they are not the first generation to attend college in our family?**

Yes, first-generation college attendance is only one of five criteria for acceptance. While priority will be given to students who are first-generation college-goers, all students are invited to apply.

**10. Will my child be able to attend the prom?**

Yes, ECHS will host its own prom. Students are also eligible to attend their home school's prom as deemed permissible by each school's policy.

**11. Will my child walk across the stage at their home school's graduation?**

Currently, all ECHS students will be tied to their home school for the purposes of pupil accounting. Students would be a part of their home school's graduation ceremony, which is where they will receive their high school diploma. ECHS holds its own ceremony to celebrate our graduates, at which time students will receive a certificate from ECHS and, if earned, where they will receive their Trident Tech diploma.

Students who complete the Associate's Degree will also be invited to participate in the Trident Technical College graduation ceremony.

**12. Who is ECHS for?**

ECHS seeks to serve a diverse student body from various socioeconomic groups, ethnicities, and nationalities. A variety of backgrounds and personal experiences strengthens the student body and the high school experience of our children. Our diversity is a point of pride for ECHS.

**13. What will my child experience socially?**

Students entering the ninth grade will be a part of a small cohort of no more than 115 classmates. The small nature of the school, combined with the unique challenges of the rigorous coursework will encourage strong bonds of friendship and collegiality. Through our AVID model, each student is assigned a faculty advisor to guide them through each year of their high school experience. Additionally, students will work closely with a school counselor and administrative team. Students will not only have close relationships with their peers, but also with ECHS faculty. All decisions about a student's readiness to travel through the Palmer Campus alone, and to attend college courses, will be made based upon the individual student, taking into account their academic and social readiness.

**14. What is Dual Credit?**

With the approval of the principal or designee, students may take college-level courses from a partner institution of higher education (IHE). The final grade(s) earned in the course(s) are then transcribed in two locations that students are building: the IHE transcript and the high school transcript.

As an example, if a student receives a final numerical grade of 90 in a dual credit course, that course and grade are reflected on the IHE transcript and the final numerical average would also be transcribed on the high school transcript. Upon transcription to the high school transcript, the correlated high school GPA quality points associated with that numerical average are awarded. GPA weighting on the SC UGP scale for Dual Enrollment Courses can be found [here](#).

**15. Is my 8th grader mature enough to attend high school on a college campus?**

As freshmen, ECHS students will not travel throughout the larger Trident Tech Campus. ECHS freshmen are restricted to ECHS-designated spaces on campus. ECHS students are enrolled in college classes their sophomore year when they demonstrate that they are ready, both academically and socially. Additionally, all ninth-grade students are enrolled in an [AVID](#) class to help them become mature young men and women ready to navigate a college campus. AVID coursework emphasizes the organizational skills, effective study habits, and critical thinking skills necessary to successfully navigate college. ECHS AVID teachers also act as student advisors charged with helping students develop agency and academic relationships.

**16. How can my child complete their high school diploma and Associate's Degree simultaneously?**

A course is considered Dual Credit when it counts toward both the high school and college transcript; when students are completing Dual Credit courses, we ensure that they will meet high school level requirements, as well as fulfilling requirements for their selected Associate's Degree program. When a student completes one course that counts towards two different sets of requirements, this makes the course progression for each possible in a four-year span.

**16. 2024-25 demographics?**

- 43.2% - African American
- 32.6% - Hispanic or Latino
- 19% - White
- 3.7% - Blended Nationalities
- 1.4% - Asian

**17. What Clubs do you offer?**

We offer a range of nationally affiliated clubs and host a club period each Friday during the school day. All ECHS students participate in at least one club. A full list of 2024-2025 clubs can be found on our website or at [this link](#).