

SGHS ECHS Admission Policy and Enrollment Application

Campus and Program Overview

South Garland High School is a comprehensive high school that is partnering with Dallas College to offer an Early High School (ECHS) program to incoming 9th graders who are least likely to attend college. The program starts their freshman year and continues through their four years of high school. The program is designed to offer students the opportunity to earn up to 60 college credits at no cost. Students may earn an Associate's degree and/or industry based certifications while completing their high school graduation requirements. The courses are primarily housed at South Garland High School; however, all dual credit faculty are credentialed by Dallas College. Additionally, the ECHS embeds social/emotional supports throughout the program to support young learners who have the desire to take advanced coursework. Interested students should possess a high level of commitment, academic tenacity, and desire to do college-level work while in high school.

Admission Policy

All students interested in a rigorous and supportive dual credit experience that leads to earning a high school diploma concurrently with an Associate's degree are encouraged to apply. As stated in The Early College High School Handbook, the South Garland ECHS shall target, recruit, and enroll students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Are at risk of dropping out of school
- Are part of an underrepresented backgrounds
 - At-risk
 - low income
 - first-generation college attendees
- Are Emergent Bilingual students
- Are students receiving 504 or Special Education accommodations

However, students of all backgrounds are encouraged to attend. Garland ISD does not consider academic, discipline, state assessments or other criteria for the ECHS and P-TECH selection process.

Student Eligibility Criteria

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) sets forth criteria for ECHS programs that targets at-risk, low income, English language learners, and first generation students. As a result, the following criteria will be used in determining student eligibility for the South Garland ECHS program:

- reside within the Garland ISD school zone
- be classified as a first-time, incoming 9th grader

- complete an application during the posted windows
- have the desire to take college-level coursework

Selection Process

The following outlines the application and selection process:

- Students will choose South Garland's ECHS on the Choice of School Form available through Avela.
- Students and parent(s) will attend an ECHS orientation meeting.
- If more eligible students apply than available seats, the South Garland ECHS Selection Committee will use a blind weighted lottery that considers the following factors:
 - The schools/programs selected
 - The way the school preferences were ranked in the choice form/application
 - The number of seats available at each school/program for that grade
 - The student's test scores for any magnet programs selected
 - The student's priority level for that school/program
 - The District has determined the following priority groups for magnet placement:
 - Siblings of students enrolled at or receiving an offer of the same magnet program (must meet qualification criteria for magnet program)
 - A student is the child of an employee who works at the same school as the desired magnet program (must meet qualification criteria for magnet program)
 - The District has determined the following priority groups for non-magnet placement:
 - Sibling
 - Distance to campus
 - How close the student lives to their choice (non-magnet)
 - Students will attend the ECHS summer bridge program prior to the start of 9th grade.

Benefits of Early College High Schools

- Engage first-generation college attendees
- Provide dual credit at no cost to students
- Offer courses that mirror a college setting, with academic counseling to help students develop the skills needed for post-high school success
- Increase college enrollment and success rates for all students
- Strengthen connections between middle schools, high schools and higher education institutions to promote a culture of college readiness