



CEDAR HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hilltop Academy at STRIVE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Hilltop Academy is a Non-Disciplinary Program designed to serve as a dropout prevention and credit recovery program for qualified scholars. This program provides scholars who have fallen multiple cohorts behind their peers the opportunity to earn credits needed to obtain a high school diploma. In addition, scholars will have the opportunity to complete career certification training programs needed to meet the district's College, Career, Military Readiness (CCMR) qualification enabling them to be ready to join the work-force upon graduation.

CURRICULUM

Scholars will have access to a self-paced accelerated curriculum, which will allow them to recover and earn credits that will get them back on track. Scholars enrolled in this program will use the EDGENUITY COMPUTER PROGRAM and will receive a grade/credit for each course completed within the set timeline. Grades/Credits will appear on the scholar's transcript with an indication that it was completed through the EDGENUITY program. EDGENUITY grades will not be factored into the scholar's GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) or Class Rank unless the course completed is an INITIAL CREDIT course.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Cedar Hill Hilltop Academy is to provide scholars with the opportunity to to graduate from high school, as well as complete career certification training programs to prepare them to be college and/or career ready.

GOAL

The goal is to increase the number of scholars meeting the state graduation requirements who might otherwise not have the opportunity to graduate from high school.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

The Hilltop Academy operates on a Modified Day. Scholars are required to attend a maximum of 4 hours of coursework each day. The school day consist of two separate sessions:

- MONDAY through FRIDAY
- AM - 7:15 AM to 11:30 AM
- PM - 11:30 AM to 3:45 PM

LOCATION

1533 High Pointe

Cedar Hill, TX 75104

(972) 293-4504

Drop-Off and Pick-Up: Door #5

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Scholars will be assigned classes matching the FOUNDATION GRADUATION plan. All assignments will be completed using the Edgenuity online computer program. The minimum graduation requirements include the following:

- A minimum of 24 credits
- Pass all 5 state STAAR examines
 - English 1
 - English 2
 - Algebra
 - Biology
 - US History
- Peace Office Training
- CPR Training
- Texas College Bridge (ENGLISH and MATH)
- FAFSA (Financial Aid)
- And any other district and/or state requirements not mentioned

EDGENUITY CLASS

- Initial Class (IC) - classes taken for the first time. Scholars will have **6 WEEKS** to complete the course.
- Credit Recovery (CR) - classes that are being repeated. Scholars will have **3 WEEKS** to complete the course.
- Attendance -If students are absent 2 or more days consecutively, student will lose access to Edgenuity

*****IF CLASSES ARE NOT COMPLETED WITHIN THE ASSIGNED TIME FRAME, SCHOLAR WILL HAVE TO START THAT COURSE OVER FROM THE BEGINNING.**

Scholars are strongly encouraged to work on course assignments at home in order to meet their graduation requirements. The privilege of working from home will be removed if the scholar is absent unless approved by the administrator.

All students are required to participate in STAAR tutoring if they have NOT MET passing status. Seniors who meet qualifications may opt to complete an IGC project. Assistance will be provided.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Scholars will have the opportunity to work on core and elective subjects. Two courses will always be posted in each scholar's Edgenuity course bank and must be completed before moving on to a new course.

- Completed semester course = .5 credit on transcript
- CR courses = Grade of 70 on transcript
- IC courses = Final Grade received on the completed course
- Attendance -If students are absent 2 or more days consecutively, student will lose access to Edgenuity

CAFETERIA SERVICES

FREE Breakfast is available for ALL scholars.

LUNCH is also provided each day for ALL scholars.

- Free or Reduced to those who qualify
- Payments must be made through the district's MY PAYMENT PLUS
- Scholars are also free to bring a SACK LUNCH if they desire
- Microwaves are available.

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

- Written request from parent must be submitted for all prescription medications during school hours
- ALL medications must be in its original container
- Campus nurse will be responsible for administering all medication at the proper time.

ILLNESS

If a scholar becomes ill at school, the Hilltop Academy staff will contact the school nurse. The nurse will notify the listed parents/guardians to have scholars picked up from school. If a parent designates a non-listed person to pick up the scholar, the designated person will be required to show a photo ID. If a scholar drives to school, parents must give permission for the scholar to leave campus.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES / CELLULAR PHONES

To help all Longhorns stay focused and successful in the classroom, Cedar Hill ISD has updated its Personal Electronic Communications Guidelines for the 2025–2026 school year. These updates align with [House Bill 1481](#), passed during the 89th Texas Legislative Session, which supports limiting cell phone use during instructional time across public schools in Texas.

Periodically, scholars will be checked by way of a security wand to ensure no devices are taken into the classroom. Collection of devices ensure less distraction during class time and guarantee more opportunities for successfully completing course requirements.

ALL electronic devices will be collected upon entering the building. This includes the following:

- ALL phones (working and non-working)
- iPads
- Smart watches
- Ear Buds and AirPods and Headphones

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING THEIR DISTRICT ISSUED CHROMEBOOK.

SCHOLARS CAUGHT WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED DEVICES WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE CAMPUS FOR THE DAY. THIS WILL COUNT AS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.

ATTENDANCE

Scholars are mandated to attend school every day. Because time is limited, it is critical that scholars stay on task and complete assignments in a timely manner so that graduation requirements can be met. It is the parents/guardians responsibility to notify the campus attendance office at (972) 293-4504 before the 7:30 AM or 11:45 PM session if the scholar will be absent from school. Upon returning, scholars must have a note signed by a parent that includes an active contact number.

- EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

- After 10 absences, scholars will have to complete community service to make up days
- May affect graduation status
- Possible removal from the Hilltop Academy program
- Doctor Appointments: Provide an original note signed by the attending physician
- **HAND WRITTEN NOTES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**
- Attendance -If students are absent 2 or more days consecutively, student will lose access to Edgenuity

***** Scholars will have the option to report to class if they arrive after the final cut off time; however, the UNEXCUSED ABSENT will not be removed.**

***** If scholars leave without permission prior to the dismissal time, an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE will be documented for that day.**

TRANSPORTATION

Scholars assigned to Hilltop Academy are responsible for their own transportation to and from school each day. Scholars are expected to be picked up and leave campus immediately (within 10 minutes of dismissal), or they will be escorted off premises. Failure to leave the campus could result in a disciplinary action.

ZERO TOLERANCE

At any time, the campus administrator may remove a scholar from campus on an emergency basis for that day and/or suspend for up to three (3) days if a scholar's behavior so warrants.

If at any time a scholar's behavior so warrants, the scholar will be immediately assigned to DAEP or permanently removed from Hilltop Academy and referred to the CHISD Law Enforcement for the following actions (TEC 37.007):

- Fighting, Threatening, Bullying, Assault
- Drugs, Drug Paraphernalia, Under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Weapons, Firearms
- Offensive or vulgar language, Offensive gestures
- Trespassing in unauthorized areas of the school building

DRESS CODE

Students at Hilltop Academy will follow the Dress Code established within the CHISD Student Code of Conduct. A scholar's appearance is an important personal responsibility. It is the goal of

teachers, counselors, and administrators to establish clear and concise guidelines regarding proper attire at school to promote an excellent learning environment.

- NO pajamas
- NO blankets or throws
- NO HEADWEAR: caps, hoodies, bonnets, do-rags, head scarfs, kerchief, bandanas
- NO Slides, Slippers, House shoes
- NO Hoodies on the head inside building
- NO Jeans with excessive holes above the knees
- NO crop tops, tube tops, tank tops, tops w/large arm holes, muscle shirts, bare mid-drift tops
- NO See Through Clothing
- NO Shirts with inappropriate Language, Gang, Drug or Alcohol Affiliation
- NO Sagging pants
- Shorts / Dresses / Skirts = ID Length Above the Knee
- Leggings
- CLEAR BACKPACKS ONLY

STRIVE ACADEMY CONTACTS:

Wm. Keith Petty	Campus Principal
Cicely Ham-Shepard	Counselor
Pamela Munson	Campus Secretary
Sheryl Moore	Hilltop Academy Teacher
Sandera Magee	Hilltop Academy Teacher
Paula Irion	Special Education Teacher
Campus Phone	972-293-4504