HUTTO ISD™

ALL IN
For the Win

ADVANCED ACADEMICS
HANDBOOK

26-27

CHALLENGING MINDS | EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES | PREPARING LEADERS | CREATING FUTURES







FUTURE READY.

Hippo Strong.

Hutto ISD Advanced Academics Handbook

Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors Courses....4
Who can take AP/Honors courses?....4
Characteristics of Honors/AP Students....5
AP/Honors Courses Offered at Hutto ISD....5
Honors/AP Course Expectations:....6
Grading....6
Retesting....6
Semester Exams....6
Recovery of Failing Grade on Daily Assignments/Homework- Advanced Courses....6
Make-Up Work for Absences....7
Summer Assignments....7
Academic Dishonesty....7
Academic Integrity Statement....7
Plagiarism....8
Cheating....8
Generative AI Tools....9
Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations....9
Requirements for AP/Honors Students....10
Petition for Advanced Course Exit....10
Requesting a Petition for Advanced Course Exit....10
Requirements to take an AP Exam....11
Steps to Register for an AP Exam as a Non-Enrolled Student....11
Dual Credit Opportunities....11
Application Process....12
HB 8 - FAST Program Students (Financial Aid for Swift Transfer)....12
College and Career Readiness School Models....13
Failure of Dual Credit Course....13
Open Dual Credit in partnership with Temple College....13
Dual Credit in partnership with Temple College....13
Ready for Early access to College in Hutto (Reach) Program....13
Texas Bioscience Institute (TBI)....14
CTE Dual Credit in partnership with Temple College....14
Dual Credit in partnership with Texas State Technical College (TSTC)....15
Removal from Dual Credit Program....15
Early College High School and Dual Credit....16
Advanced Academics Newsletter....16
Examination for Acceleration / Credit by Exam....17
Eligibility & Requirements....17
Passing Standards & Credit....17
Benefits of online courses....18

Post Examination Process..... 18
Chart - Comparison of Advanced Academic Programs..... 20

Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors Courses

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program, sponsored by the College Board, offers highly motivated and capable high school students an opportunity to take college-level courses at the local high school. Courses are offered in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, foreign languages, art, music, and computer science at all Hutto ISD campuses. AP courses are open enrollment and participation is based on course prerequisites as indicated in the course catalog. In addition to all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, a wider range and greater depth of content is taught, with an emphasis on higher level critical thinking skills as well as provisions for creative and productive thinking. The students are required to complete independent as well as guided research. Upon successful completion of the course, the student receives high school credit.

To help students prepare for the demands of the Advanced Placement Program, Hutto High School, Creekside High School, Farley Middle School, Hutto Middle School, and Gus Almquist Middle School offer Honors courses in most disciplines. Honors courses help bridge the gap between on level and AP courses to ensure student success. Honors courses are strongly recommended for students interested in entering the AP program.

Who can take AP/Honors courses?

All students are welcome to take AP and Honors courses. Students who take an AP or Honors course are usually interested in the subject and committed to the class.
To enroll in an AP course, it is recommended that the student meets at least one of these criteria:

1. Mastery of the STAAR in the related content area course.
2. Current or previous year performance in related content area courses: an A semester average in an academic course OR a B semester average in a Honors course.
3. Teacher recommendation.
4. Receive a counselor recommendation based on the cumulative folder data and parent/student conference.

Interested students should see his/her counselor or teacher. Additional information is available from the campus AP coordinator and on the College Board website.

Students can sign up for AP/Honors courses during their campus's designated course selection or transfer windows. Any placement requests made outside these dates require two or more data points verifying that the student is performing in the top 10%.

Hutto ISD Advanced Academics Handbook

Characteristics of Students Typically Successful in AP/Honors Courses

- Score at the mastery level of the STAAR/EOC test closely related to the Honors or AP course being taken.
- Be able to secure a favorable recommendation from previous teachers who can speak to your ability and demonstrated willingness to successfully engage in rigorous coursework.
- Actively and respectfully engage in class discussion and group work with thoughtful ideas and meaningful contribution to shared work products.
- Demonstrate academic integrity when completing individual and group assignments, mindful of intellectual property and copyright laws and the consequences of plagiarism and improper use of AI.
- Demonstrate willingness to learn, improve, and grow academically.
- Be curious about other viewpoints and able to accept differences of opinion.
- Demonstrate control of mechanics, grammar, and usage, organization, diction, and syntax in written expression.
- Possess a respect for learning in general and interest in the subject matter of the course in particular.

AP/Honors Courses Offered at Hutto ISD

English	Mathematics	Social Studies	Science	CTE	Fine Arts	Foreign Languages
Honors English 1	Honors Geometry	AP Human Geography (NGC)	Honors Biology	Engineering Mathematics	AP Studio Art	Honors Spanish 2
Honors English 2	Honors Algebra 2	AP World History	Honors Chemistry	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Drawing	Honors Spanish 3
AP Language & Composition	AP PreCalculus	AP US History	AP Physics 1		AP 2D Design	AP Spanish 4 (NGC & HHS)
AP English Literature	AP Statistics	AP US Government	AP Physics 2		AP 3D Design	
	AP Calculus AB	AP European History	Honors Anatomy & Physiology			
	AP Calculus BC	AP Economics	Medical Microbiology			
	AP Computer Science A	AP Psychology	AP Biology			
	Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (Honors)		AP Chemistry			
			AP Environmental Science			

Courses listed may have prerequisites and may not be listed in order. Refer to the course catalog for specifics.

Honors/AP Course Expectations:

Grading

Honors/AP courses will receive weighted grading when figuring grade point averages for class rank. Hutto ISD 2026-27 Grading and Reporting Handbook

- ☐ Homework/Daily: 40%
- ☐ Assessments: 60%
  - ☐ *Late work will not be accepted in AP/Honors courses.*

Retesting

Honors/AP courses do allow for retesting and test corrections, but students are expected to be prepared for every test. Retesting and or test corrections must be done within one week of the assessment date. The process is up to the individual teacher on the required format for retesting and/or test corrections, please refer to their individual syllabi for specifics.

Semester Exams

Semester exams/culminating activities will be given at the end of each semester in December and May. Semester exams count as 15% of total grade in grades 6-12 for high school credit courses only. Students who fail the semester exam cannot retake the exam. Semester exams are exempt from the retesting or redoing failed assessment policy.

Recovery of Failing Grade on Daily Assignments/Homework- Advanced Courses

If a student has originally submitted a “Good faith effort” attempt at an assignment, students will be given 1 school day for HONORS/AP courses from the time grades are posted on Family/Student Access and documentation of the failing grade to recover a daily/homework failing grade (69 or below).

Recovery assignment grades will be awarded according to individual course criteria. The teachers must provide methods for students to demonstrate mastery which may include the following:

- Providing an alternative assignment
- Allowing for corrections to the assignment
- Allowing the student to redo the original assignment

It is the responsibility of the teacher to communicate the recovery methods of their course to the student and parent through their course syllabus, which can be shared through the teacher's Canvas course, website, email, or direct communication. Teachers will update grades weekly with Principals determining the day of the week grade updates are due. **Weekly grades must be updated by following Friday the work was due or by the conclusion of the grading period.** It is the student's responsibility to seek the opportunity to recover upon notification of a failing grade. And it is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that grades are updated per campus policy. Failing grades not recovered within the 1 day will be recorded as the final grade earned.

Make-Up Work for Absences

Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after absences. Students shall receive a zero for any assignment or test not made up within the allotted time, unless prior approval is given by the principal or designee. Students will be given one day to make up work for each day they are absent, with exceptions made due to severe or prolonged illness. Students will not receive a grade penalty for makeup work from an absence due to suspension.

Summer Assignments

Summer assignments for AP/Honors courses are provided for educational merit and preparation. Completion of these assignments is **optional**. In accordance with school policy, these tasks **will not have a grade attached to them**, and no academic penalties (such as zeros or course removal) will be applied for non-completion. They are designed purely to help students familiarize themselves with the strenuous and high-level curriculum recommended by the College Board without the pressure of a formal assessment.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to demonstrate honesty, integrity, and personal responsibility in all academic work. Academic dishonesty undermines the learning process and will not be tolerated.

A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or assessments and disciplinary consequences in accordance with the **Hutto ISD Student Code of Conduct** and **Board Policy EIA(LOCAL)**. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the professional judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional

employee, taking into consideration written materials, observations, information from students, and other available evidence consistent with district policy.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating or copying another student's work.
- Plagiarism.
- Unauthorized collaboration or communication during assignments, quizzes, or examinations.
- Using artificial intelligence (AI) or other digital tools to complete an assignment, in whole or in part, unless specifically authorized by the classroom teacher.
- Misrepresenting another person's work, ideas, or creations as one's own.

Incidents of academic dishonesty may result in one or more of the following:

- A grade penalty, including a zero on the assignment or assessment, as permitted by district grading guidelines.
- Parent/guardian notification.
- A disciplinary referral and consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Removal from academic organizations or programs, including, but not limited to, the National Honor Society, when applicable.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting another person's words, ideas, or work as your own without proper acknowledgment.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Submitting another person's assignment, in whole or in part, as your own.
- Copying or closely paraphrasing another author's work without proper citation.
- Presenting work completed by a tutor, parent, sibling, friend, or another individual as your own.
- Submitting AI-generated content as original work without teacher permission or appropriate acknowledgment.

Cheating

Cheating is the unauthorized use or exchange of information, materials, or assistance on academic work.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Copying another student's work.
- Allowing another student to copy your work.
- Giving or receiving answers during a quiz, test, or examination.
- Accessing or distributing assessment materials before they are administered.
- Submitting work created by another person or through unauthorized AI tools as your own.

Students are responsible for protecting their own work during quizzes, tests, and other assessments.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Hutto ISD recognizes that generative AI tools can support student learning when used appropriately. AI should enhance learning—not replace critical thinking, creativity, or original student work.

Unless expressly authorized by the classroom teacher, students may **not** use AI tools to complete assignments or assessments.

When AI use is permitted:

- Students must follow all teacher directions regarding acceptable use.
- AI may be used only for the purposes approved by the teacher.
- Students must produce original work that reflects their own understanding.
- Students must properly acknowledge or cite AI-generated content when required by the teacher.
- Students may be asked to explain or defend any work submitted with AI assistance to demonstrate their understanding and original contribution.

Unauthorized use of AI may be considered **academic dishonesty** and may result in academic and disciplinary consequences consistent with Board Policy **EIA(LOCAL)** and the Student Code of Conduct.

Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships.

Students enrolled in Advanced Academics courses are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, organizations, athletics, and other school-sponsored programs. Hutto ISD is committed to supporting students in pursuing both academic excellence and

meaningful involvement in school life. Students and families should refer to the **Hutto ISD Grading Handbook** for district policies regarding grading procedures, academic expectations, and University Interscholastic League (UIL) eligibility requirements.

Requirements for AP/Honors Students

- Complete Independent Projects as assigned. (Course Specific)
- Students are required to sit for the AP exam, and will be assigned a course fee according to their district recorded economic status.

Attendance Review for Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors Courses

Success in Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses requires consistent attendance due to the accelerated pace, rigorous coursework, and frequent in-class instruction and collaboration. Students who accumulate an excessive number of absences in an AP or Honors course may be subject to an ****Academic Review****.

The Academic Review process is designed to identify barriers to success and provide appropriate supports. As part of this process, the student and parent/guardian may be required to participate in a meeting with:

* A campus administrator,
* The AP or Honors course teacher, and
* The student's grade-level counselor.

During the meeting, the team will review the student's attendance, academic progress, and overall performance to develop an individualized intervention and support plan. The plan may include attendance expectations, academic supports, tutoring, progress monitoring, parent communication, and other strategies intended to help the student successfully complete the course.

Failure to demonstrate improvement after implementation of the intervention plan may result in additional academic review and consideration of appropriate course placement in accordance with district policies and established course exit procedures.

Petition for Advanced Course Exit

Courses changes for Hutto ISD may be due to changes in graduation plans, failed courses, or revisions to Career & Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Study. Changes to courses can occur during the first full week of classes. If students choose to change courses they can get a removal form signed by their teacher and parent/guardian and then will meet with their counselor to discuss. After the first week of

classes changes can only occur through a request for a **Petition for Advanced Course Exit.**

Requesting a Petition for Advanced Course Exit
Exit processes are in place to assist students and families in making informed course placement decisions. Requests to exit an Advanced or Honors course must be initiated by the student and parent/guardian and are not teacher-initiated.

Before submitting a petition to exit an Advanced or Honors course, the student must have attended a minimum of three (3) tutorials for the requested course and demonstrated a good-faith effort to utilize available academic supports. Documentation of tutorial attendance may be required as part of the petition process.

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that grades earned in the Advanced or Honors course will transfer to the on-level course and will be included in the student's overall course average. Therefore, a course change does not result in a reset of grades earned prior to the transfer.

Petition for Advanced/Honors Course Exit
Students may petition to exit an Advanced or Honors course during one of the following windows:

- On or before the **second** progress report (**Week 6**) to allow placement into an on-level course during the first nine weeks. Requests submitted after the second progress report may not allow sufficient time for a schedule change that enables the student to earn credit in the new course.

  OR

- During the first **ten** (10) school days of **November** to request placement into an on-level course for the spring semester. For spring-only semester courses, petitions may instead be submitted during the first **ten** (10) school days of **February**.

Petitions submitted outside of these designated windows will not be considered except in extenuating circumstances approved by campus administration.

Calendar dates will be posted each year. The petition for exit requires that the student has conferenced with their teacher about their performance and have implemented recommendations for improvement. The petition for exit may or may not be granted by the campus. The decision will be based on input from a campus committee to determine

the best academic plan for the student. This committee shall consist of the student, parent, teacher, counselor, and/or administrator and will look at student performance in the course, the availability of space in other courses, and timing of the request. If a student is removed after November, and an exam has been ordered, the student is still responsible for the attached fee for the exam. No refunds will be given.

Requirements to take an AP Exam
It is a district expectation that if you sit for an AP course, you will take the associated exam. The amount will be added to your account at the end of the first nine week grading period based on your district recorded economic status.

As a district, we understand the cost associated with taking AP exams and each year, the District commits to assisting students with the financial cost of taking the AP exam. Hutto ISD will cover a portion of the exam fee and the student will be responsible for $50 per exam. As the College Board increases exam costs, this percentage of support from the District may vary each year. There are no refunds on fees paid toward AP Exams. In addition, once a student is registered for an AP Exam and then does not attend the exam, the student will be responsible for the portion of the exam that was paid by the district and any other fees the district may be assessed.

** **AP Exam Fee Assistance:** AP exam fees are reduced for students who qualify for the **National School Lunch Program (NSLP)**.*

- *Students eligible for **Reduced-Price Meals** receive a **50% reduction** in AP exam fees.*
- *Students eligible for **Free Meals** receive **100% of the regular AP exam fee at no cost**.*

*To receive the discounted fee, a current **Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application** must be submitted and approved **by the district's October snapshot date** and **no later than the end of the first semester** of the school year. Students who do not have an approved application on file by the deadline will be responsible for the full AP exam fee.*

*** **AP Capstone Exam Fees:** AP Capstone exams (AP Seminar and AP Research) have a higher College Board exam fee than standard AP exams. Students will pay only the cost of a **standard AP exam**, and **Hutto ISD will cover the remaining balance**.*

AP Exam Registration for Non-Enrolled Students

Homeschooled students and students whose school does not offer a specific AP course or exam may be eligible to take an AP exam at Hutto High School, subject to exam availability and testing capacity.

To register for an AP exam, complete the following steps:

1. **Contact the Hutto High School AP Coordinator** to request registration for the desired AP exam.
2. **Receive an Exam-Only Join Code.** The AP Coordinator will create an *Exam Only* section in College Board's My AP system and provide you with a unique join code.
3. **Join the Exam in My AP.** Log in to your College Board account at My AP and use the join code to enroll in the Exam Only section. This step officially registers you for the exam.
4. **Pay the Exam Fee.** Submit the required exam fee through the Hutto ISD RevTrak payment system using the link provided by the AP Coordinator.

Exam Fee: $99.00 per exam

Registration is not complete until both the My AP enrollment and payment have been received by the published registration deadline.

Dual Credit Opportunities

Hutto ISD offers students the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit through dual credit courses beginning in the ninth grade. Dual credit courses satisfy high school graduation requirements while also earning transferable college credit. Many core curriculum courses transfer to Texas public colleges and universities.

In accordance with Texas Education Code §28.009, students are not required to meet Texas Success Initiative (TSIA2) college readiness standards for their first 15 college credit hours. After completing 15 college credit hours, students must meet the applicable TSIA2 requirements to continue enrolling in dual credit courses.

Application Requirements

Students must complete the following to be considered for a dual credit program:

- Program-specific application

- Hutto ISD Dual Credit Application
- Bacterial meningitis vaccination documentation (if required by the college)
- Official high school transcript

Some dual credit programs require additional application materials. Any additional requirements are outlined within the specific program description.

Application Process

Registration for dual credit courses occurs annually during February and March.

Students should begin the application process through their Hutto ISD campus counselor or by visiting the Hutto ISD Advanced Academics website. All dual credit applications must be initiated through Hutto ISD before applying with the partnering college. Students who apply directly to Temple College or another partnering institution before completing the Hutto ISD process may be required to repeat portions of the application.

Application deadlines vary each year. Early application windows typically open in mid-February, with final application deadlines occurring in early March. Students should consult their campus counselor each year for the official timeline and deadlines.

Tuition

Hutto ISD partners with multiple colleges to provide affordable dual credit opportunities.

Partner	Tuition
Temple College (eligible in-district students)	**$0 per credit hour**
Texas State Technical College (TSTC)	**$33 per credit hour**
FAST Program Qualifiers	**$0**
Early College High School (ECHS) Students	**$0**

Course Fees and Materials

Although tuition may be covered, students may still be responsible for additional course-related expenses, including but not limited to:

- Textbooks
- Digital access codes
- Software licenses
- Lab fees
- Course supplies or materials

Any applicable charges will be posted to the student's Skyward account and paid directly to Hutto ISD. Students should never send payments directly to Temple College or any other dual credit partner institution unless specifically instructed by Hutto ISD.

Students enrolled in the **Temple College Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Dual Credit** program who are qualifying in-district students **receive free tuition** through Temple College.

However, students are responsible for **$1,210 in required course fees**. These fees include instructional and program costs such as technology, laboratory, clinical, health science, textbook, and other required course fees.

Hutto ISD will cover several additional EMT-related costs, including the stethoscope and blood pressure cuff, NREMT exam fee, state licensure fee, uniform shirt and pants, and background/drug screening.

Families should also be aware that **immunization costs may vary** and will be the responsibility of the student/family.

Additional information about payment timelines and next steps will be shared as we get closer to the start of the course.

HB 8 - FAST Program Students (Financial Aid for Swift Transfer)
The FAST program provides funding to participating public institutions of higher education so they can offer dual credit courses to educationally disadvantaged students at no cost to these students. A student qualifies for FAST if they are enrolled in Dual Credit classes while attending a public high school. They must have qualified as “Economically Disadvantaged” in his/her high school preceding the four years prior to

the beginning of the Dual Credit classes. Students are not charged for tuition or required materials. The **FAST program** may cover eligible tuition and fees for students who qualify. More information is available here: https://www.templecollege.edu/programs/dual-credit/fast.html

College and Career Readiness School Models
Students in the Hutto ECHS program per (§102.1091) are not required to pay for tuition, fees or required textbooks for any coursework. Hutto ISD shall pay for tuition, fees and required textbooks, if those charges are not waived by the IHE (Institute of Higher Education).

Failure of Dual Credit Course
Students who fail a dual credit course by the college standards (59 or below) are required to meet with their Hutto High School grade-level counselor and a campus administrator to review their academic performance and develop a plan for future success. The student will continue on a period of academic probation. Following continued course failure, the student may be removed from enrollment in dual credit courses for a minimum of **one (1) semester** before becoming eligible to enroll in dual credit again.

After the one-semester waiting period, students may request to return to the dual credit program, subject to counselor approval and meeting all program eligibility requirements. If a student chooses to repeat a previously failed dual credit course, the student is responsible for any tuition, fees, textbooks, and other associated costs, and any discounted tuition rate previously available may not apply.

Open Dual Credit in partnership with Temple College

Available to students in grades 9–12 who wish to take one or more dual credit courses without enrolling in a comprehensive dual credit program. Course delivery varies by course and may include:

- Virtual, asynchronous instruction with students completing coursework while receiving support and supervision on their Hutto ISD campus;
- Face-to-face instruction at a Hutto ISD campus taught by embedded Hutto ISD instructors credentialed through the college; or
- Face-to-face instruction at the East Williamson County Higher Education Center (EWCHEC) Temple College Campus.

Course availability and instructional format vary by semester and are determined by student eligibility, enrollment, and college scheduling.

Dual Credit in partnership with Temple College

A complete list of Hutto ISD dual credit courses, including required and recommended prerequisites, course availability, and program-specific requirements, can be found in the **Hutto ISD Course Catalog**. Students and families are encouraged to review the Course Catalog and consult with their campus counselor when planning their dual credit coursework.

Texas Bioscience Institute (TBI)

The **Texas Bioscience Institute (TBI)** is an advanced dual credit program that provides students with the opportunity to graduate from Hutto High School with both a **high school diploma** and an **Associate of Science degree (approximately 60 college credit hours)** from Temple College. TBI is a rigorous, STEM-focused program designed for students interested in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health-related fields.

Students apply to the program during their **sophomore year** and, if accepted, participate in the program during their **junior and senior years**.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for TBI, students must:

- Meet TSIA2 college readiness requirements.
- Successfully complete **Algebra II, Biology I, and Chemistry I** prior to entering the program.
- Earn a minimum **80 average** in Algebra II, Biology I, Chemistry I, and all subsequent TBI coursework.

Summer Coursework

TBI students are expected to complete **at least one required summer dual credit course** as part of their degree plan. Required summer courses are assessed at the same tuition and fee rates as other required dual credit courses within the TBI pathway.

CTE Dual Credit in partnership with Temple College

Hutto ISD offers a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that includes an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program. This program is part of their Public

Service endorsement and aims to prepare students for careers in emergency services. The program provides students with hands-on training and the opportunity to earn their EMT certification before graduating high school. These courses are taught at Hutto High School by Temple College adjunct professors.

Requirements

- Students must have completed the health science program of study including Anatomy and Physiology

Dual Credit in partnership with Texas State Technical College (TSTC)

Courses are offered through a partnership between Hutto ISD and Texas State Technical College (TSTC). College courses may be taken on the high school campus with a credentialed Hutto ISD instructor, on-site at TSTC, or through distance learning with a TSTC instructor.

Students may earn up to 20 college credit hours toward an associate degree or technical certificate. Students enrolled in TSTC dual credit courses are not required to pass the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) before enrolling. However, students who continue at TSTC after high school to pursue an associate degree or Level II certificate must meet TSIA requirements.

Dual Enrollment programs available

- Cybersecurity (Available Sophomore Year) - 18 credit hours
- Culinary Art (Available Junior-Senior Year) - 9 credit hours
- Precision Machining Technology (Available Junior-Senior Year) - 20 credit hours
- Welding (Available Junior-Senior Year) - 14 credit hours

Application Process

Enroll during high school grade-level registration.
Complete the Dual Enrollment Paperwork:

- TSTC Application
- Registration
- Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Record
- High School Transcript

Removal from Dual Credit Program

Students may be removed from a dual credit program. Specific policies vary by institution, but common reasons for removal include failing to meet minimum grade

requirements, such as earning below a C in a dual credit course, or violating institutional, academic, attendance, or behavioral policies.

If removal from the program occurs the student's counselor will contact the student and parents. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss changing their coursework to an on campus non dual credit class. The student will have to work with their teacher on getting caught up with their coursework to ensure mastery of TEKS for the class.

Students can drop a course at any time throughout the semester. Course fees and tuition and the full responsibility of the student if the course is not dropped prior to the drop deadline set by the IHE (Institute of Higher Education). These fees will be added to the students account once the district receives the amount from the IHE and will be done prior to the end of the semester.

Early College High School and Dual Credit

Hutto ISD's Early College High School (ECHS) is designed to give students—especially those traditionally underrepresented in higher education—the opportunity to earn up to 60 college credit hours while still in high school. Through a unique partnership with Temple College, Hutto ISD's ECHS provides a supportive environment with dedicated faculty, a cohort structure, and tailored resources to help students succeed. ECHS opens doors to college and career paths, fostering confidence and readiness for advanced education. The program is especially impactful for students who may be the first in their families to attend college, ensuring college feels both accessible and achievable.

An ECHS is a school designated by the TEA (TAC §102.1091 and §4.161) that enables students who might not otherwise go to college to graduate from high school with up to 60 semester credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree. The commissioner's rules for ECHS programs (TAC §102.1091) do not allow a student enrolled in an ECHS course for high school graduation credit to be required to pay for tuition, fees, or required textbooks. School districts and charter schools are responsible for paying any tuition, fees, or textbook costs not waived by an institution of higher education.

ECHS is for upcoming 9th grade students and is chosen through a lottery system during the Spring of their 8th grade year. Applications open in January each year and close at the start of February.

For additional information please visit the following links:

- https://hhs.hipponation.org/echs
- ECHS handbook

Advanced Academics Newsletter

Hutto ISD has created an information newsletter about all of the Advanced Academic offerings. For more information about each program visit the following link.

- Advanced Academic Flyer

Examination for Acceleration / Credit by Exam

Hutto ISD provides opportunities for students in grades K–12 to earn credit for a course or skip an entire grade level without formal prior instruction.

Eligibility & Requirements

- **No Prior Instruction:** EA is strictly for students who have not yet taken the course or grade level. If a student has previously attempted a course or been denied credit, they are ineligible for EA and should contact their counselor regarding **Credit Recovery**.
- **Cost:** Testing is provided **free of charge** for currently enrolled students during regularly scheduled administration windows.

Passing Standards & Credit

To successfully accelerate, students must demonstrate mastery by scoring a minimum of **80%** on the required examinations.

Level	Requirement for Success
Elementary (K-5)	Must score at least 80% on each of the four grade-level exams: Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
Middle and High School (6-12)	Must score at least 80% on the exam for the specific TEKS-based course. For year-long secondary courses (e.g., Geometry), students must register for and pass both semester exams (Semester A and Semester B).

Please visit the district website for more information and the process to complete an Examination for Acceleration.
https://www.hipponation.org/gifted-talented-and-advanced-academic-services/examination-for-acceleration

Hutto ISD supports students who wish to take on an extra online high school course to get ahead or gain flexibility in meeting graduation requirements as they fit AP, Dual

Credit, or other special interests into their course schedule. To ensure the courses are accepted by the District, speak with your building counselor.

Benefits of online courses

- Scheduling flexibility to adjust to students' needs
- Accelerated pace to fit students' schedule and learning preferences
- TEKS-aligned curriculum, designed and facilitated by experienced, Texas-certified teachers

Approved coursework with prior written permission includes

- Advanced Placement (AP) Courses through UT High School
    - Course design and enrollment process
    - AP Classroom and Exam Information
- UT High School University Extension
    - Available Courses
- Temple College
    - Dual Credit Crosswalk
        - Check for availability and possible offering of online courses
- Other Texas colleges and universities
    - Please check with the counselors if you are interested in taking courses outside of those listed above to ensure the district accepts those courses for credit.

Course costs are paid for by the parent, not the district when dealing with additional coursework beyond the required curriculum. ECHS students cannot take additional courses with Temple College due to the MOU.

Post Examination Process

When a student is successful with Examination by Acceleration they will be placed in the appropriate level at the start of the next school year. If a student is in second grade, passes all tests for third grade, they will start the following year in 4th grade.

When a student is successful with Credit by Exam they will be placed in the next scheduled content. If the student passes Algebra I by exam they will be placed in Geometry the next year. If a student has surpassed all of the levels of content taught on a campus, the student will be placed in an online learning platform such as edmentum.

To ensure students are receiving the same guidance in an accelerated virtual course. Hutto ISD has established the following guidelines.

Hutto ISD – Clarification on the Acceleration Process (1).pdf

In accordance with TAC §74.24(c)(11), if a student is given credit in a subject based on a CBE on which the student scored 80% or higher without prior instruction, then the student is not required to take an applicable end-of-course assessment for the course. The score must also be documented on the student's transcript.

Scores received on the corresponding test are put in as the official grade on a student's transcript. AP exams do not return scores on a scale of 100. However you must attain a 3 or higher to receive credit. Hutto ISD puts the following grades on the student's transcript.

3= 80% 4=90% 5=100%

Semester grades in English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language are used to calculate a student's GPA and class rank. Credit by Exam and Examination by Acceleration are excluded from class rank and GPA calculations.

*If a student takes a correspondence course (which is a form of distance learning) that grade will be excluded from the calculator for **class rank** and **GPA**.*

Laws and Rules that govern credit by examination

The state law that governs credit by examination is Texas Education Code (TEC), §§ 25.007 and 28.023. The State Board of Education rules concerning credit by examination can be found in Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.24.

HUTTO ISD
ADVANCED ACADEMICS

COMPARISON OF ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	HONORS	ADVANCED PLACEMENT	ECHS	REACH *GRADES 26-27	TBI	DUAL CREDIT (Temple College)	CTE DUAL CREDIT (TSTC)
DESCRIPTION	Classes that are rigorous and fast	College-level classes that are rigorous	Opportunity to earn up to 60 hours of college credit	Opportunity to earn up to 60 hours of college credit	Opportunity to earn up to 60 hours of college credit	Earn credit for both high school and college	Opportunity to earn a high school credential
CERTIFICATION OR DEGREE OPPORTUNITY	Not applicable	Associates Degree	Associates Degree	Associates Degree	Associates Degree	24 credit hours of core classes	EMT Cybersecurity
ELIGIBILITY	Open to any secondary student	Open to any high school student	Open for enrollment during 8th	Open to any high school student	Open to any college-ready student in their junior year	Open to any high school student	Opportunity to earn a high school credential
COST	No fees	$50 per course $30 for eco dis	Free	Prices are $0.00 per credit hour for qualifying in-district students; courses are 3–5 credit hours.	Prices are $0.00 per credit hour for qualifying in-district students; courses are 3–5 credit hours.	Prices are $0.00 per credit hour for qualifying in-district students; courses are 3–5 credit hours.	Prices are $33.00 per credit hour, courses range from 2–5
TSI REQUIREMENTS	No	High school teachers with training from Temple	Yes, after the first 15 credits	Yes	Yes	Yes, after the first 15 credits	No, unless continuing after high school
TEACHERS/ INSTRUCTORS	Campus Teacher	High school teachers with training from Temple	Temple College Adjunct Professors	Temple College Adjunct Professors	Temple College Adjunct Professors	Embedded instructors or Temple professors	High school teachers or Temple professors
LOCATION	Building campus	High School Campus	High School Campus	College Campus	Half day at Temple College; remainder at High School	College campus or High School	High school campus, college campus
ENROLLMENT	Students enroll during school course registration.	High school course registration.	Enrollment selection through lottery by application only.	Open to any high school student.	Complete the TBI application	Student enroll during high school course registration.	Student enroll during high school course registration.
AWARDING OF CREDIT	High School Credit	High school credit is awarded when college credit is earned	High school and college credits are awarded when the student passes the course	High school and college credits are awarded when the student passes the course	High school and college credits are awarded when the student passes the course	High school and college credits are awarded when the student passes the course	High school and college credits are awarded when the student passes the course

There may be some additional costs related to textbooks or special equipment associated with a course.

Updated 7/2026