



**TEXAS**  
**EARLY COLLEGE**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

# Early College High School

## What is ECHS?



Early College High Schools (ECHS) are innovative high schools that allow students least likely to attend college an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and 60 college credit hours.

Early College High Schools:

- provide dual credit at no cost to students
- offer rigorous instruction and accelerated courses
- provide academic and social support services to help students succeed
- reduce barriers to college access



The Texas Education Agency has established a blueprint model for ECHS in Texas and designation as an ECHS is granted through an application process. Birdville ISD

has submitted an application for the first stage of approval and planning.

## Blueprint Outcome Based Measures

**Target Population:** Students in grades 9–12 who are at risk of dropping out of school and who might not otherwise go to college. Student groups targeted for recruitment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Limited English proficiency students;
- Students with disabilities;
- Students with a history of failed state assessments;
- First generation college goers;
- Students of low socioeconomic status; and
- Students from diverse backgrounds.



**The Birdville ECHS will serve all three feeder patterns. Enrollment is lottery by application.**

**Partnership Agreement:** Each ECHS must have a partnership with an institution of higher education. Birdville ISD and Tarrant County College (Northeast Campus) have partnered in the application process for ECHS. Initial plans have included a school-within-a-school model to house grades 9 and 10 at HHS and grades 11 and 12 at TCC.

**P-16 Leadership Initiatives:** The school district and the institution of higher education partners shall develop and maintain a leadership team that meet regularly to address issues of design, implementation, ongoing implementation, and sustainability.

## Potential Long-Range Opportunities

### Smaller Smarter Promise Scholarship at Texas Wesleyan University

Students who transfer to Texas Wesleyan from a regionally accredited college with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and 42 credit hours may receive an award which covers 100% of tuition, excluding fees, for students who meet all of the requirements. **Students must be eligible for the full amount of Federal Pell Grant (zero estimated family contribution).**



### Area School Districts which offer ECHS Enrollment

- Arlington ISD
- Burleson ISD
- Crowley ISD
- Carrollton Farmers Branch ISD
- Dallas ISD
- Everman ISD
- Fort Worth ISD
- Grand Prairie ISD
- Grapevine-Colleyville ISD
- Mansfield ISD
- Waxahachie ISD

**Curriculum and Support:** The ECHS shall provide a rigorous course of study that enables a participating student to receive a high school diploma and complete the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's core curriculum, obtain certifications, earn an associate's degree, or earn at least 60 hours of credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree during grades 9–12.

- Students shall receive tutoring and assistance in obtaining college readiness status.
- Students shall receive enrichment opportunities such as community service involvement, career investigations, and college entrance/financial aid counseling.

**Academic Rigor and Readiness:** The ECHS shall administer a Texas Success Initiative (TSI) college readiness placement exam to all accepted ECHS students to assess college readiness, design individual instructional support plans, and enable students to begin college courses based on their performance on the exam.

**School Design:** The ECHS must provide a full-day program at an autonomous high school, a college liaison with decision-making authority, and a highly-qualified staff with support and training.

**AVID:** Birdville ISD ECHS students will participate in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program.

- Students will benefit from organized tutoring, instruction focused on successful habits to foster college success.



### Why was Haltom High selected as the District Site?

- HHS is a National AVID Demonstration Site
- Facilities capacity; space requirements for courses could be met
- Access to new science labs
- Innovative scheduling allows students to participate in ECHS and fine arts/athletics (a priority in Birdville not available in all ECHS sites.)

