



An Orientation for New Administrators of ECHS Campuses

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Our Purpose

Review

- Early College High School history
- Rules, structures, processes, and resources to support Early College High Schools
- Early College High School Blueprint requirements in Benchmarks 1–6



History

- **2017:** 198 ECHS in Texas and 280+ in the U.S.
- **2009 to present:** ECHS Designation application required yearly
- **2013 to present:** TEA ECHS Blueprint with six Benchmark criteria for Early College High Schools
- **2017–2018:** TEA ECHS Blueprint Redesign with focus on outcomes-based measures
- **2018–2019:** Implement new TEA ECHS Blueprint with outcomes-based matrix

Texas Education Agency

Definition of Early College High Schools

Innovative high schools that allow students least likely to attend college to earn a high school diploma and 60 college hours, blending the traditional high school and college into one educational program.

TEA Early College-Curriculum Division

www.tea.tx.gov



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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; increase college readiness: and reduce barriers to college access.

TEA Early College-Curriculum Division

www.tea.tx.gov



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- Early College High School is a TEA initiative.
- ECHS Designation processes, laws, and rules
- Resources (Region 13 & JFF)
- Early College High School Blueprint
- Dual credit FAQ

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ECHS Laws and Rules

- Texas Education Code 29.908
- Texas Administrative Code 4.161
- Texas Administrative Code Chapter 102.19 Educational Programs Subchapter GG: Commissioner's Rules Concerning Early College Education Program –application process and timeline

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Commissioner's Rules Concerning Early College High Schools

Under the authority of Texas Education Code (TEC)29.908(b) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC)102.1091, TEA developed a **designation process for Early College High Schools**. The process maintains the **integrity of the model**, which was researched and designed to target and serve students who might not otherwise attend college.

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Designation Process

- TEA ECHS Designation application must be submitted yearly.
- Designation approval is valid for 1 year.
- ISD must comply with all assurances in the application based on the ECHS Blueprint.
- ECHS must have a plan for the students to obtain 60 college hours.

TEA Early College-Curriculum Division

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Local Expectations


- District Designation application
- Memorandum of understanding with IHE annual updates and renewal
- Shared services agreement with IHE annual updates and renewal
- Annual implementation plan and timeline
- Fidelity to the ECHS Blueprint

TEA Early College-Curriculum Division

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ECHS Blueprint

The Early College High School Blueprint		
Initiating	Implementing	Exemplar
<p>Initiating campuses are interested in applying for designation and are working toward fully implementing the ECHS model. They are generally ready offering dual credit to their students, working with an IHE partner, and offering student supports.</p>	<p>Implementing campuses have received designation because they have demonstrated that they can implement all of the Benchmarks.</p> 	<p>Exemplar campuses have been designated for at least 4 years and have reached the “exemplar level” in three of the categories, including Benchmark 4.</p>



Benchmark 1: Target Population—The Early College High School shall serve, or include plans to scale up to serve, students in grades 9–12 and shall target and enroll students who are at risk of dropping out of school as defined by the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) and who might not otherwise go to college.

Products		Sources of Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written admission policy and enrollment application Written recruitment plan, including a timeline of recruitment and enrollment events and recruitment materials for distribution at feeder schools and other appropriate locations in the community Brochures and marketing in Spanish, English, and/or relevant second language(s) Written communication plan for targeting identified audiences, parents, community members, school board members, higher education personnel, etc. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longitudinal student enrollment data Sign-in sheets from parent events Recruitment schedule, locations (schools, churches, community centers, etc.), and support services (transportation, child care, etc.) Survey data (community input, enrollment trends, etc.) Needs assessment
Initiating	Implementing	Exemplar
<p>The initiating campus shall create a coherent schedule of tasks, activities, and accomplishment of interim benchmarks that culminate in achievement of Exemplar targets within a logical and reasonable timeframe.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The ECHS shall meet all the Initiating criteria. The ECHS recruitment and enrollment processes and requirements shall not exclude or discourage the enrollment of any of the subpopulations of at-risk students (as defined by PEIMS), including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency or who have failed a state administered assessment. Enrollment decisions shall not be based on state assessment scores, discipline history, teacher recommendation, or minimum grade point average (GPA). The ECHS shall identify, recruit, and enroll subpopulations (in addition to those who are at risk as defined by PEIMS) that are historically underrepresented in college courses (e.g., first generation college goers, students of low socioeconomic status, African American, Hispanic). The ECHS shall clearly document recruitment and enrollment policies and practices, refining and improving them annually based on data reviews. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The ECHS shall make available to TEA their annual recruitment and enrollment policies and data. Recruitment and enrollment processes (including marketing and recruitment plans, materials, and timelines) shall include input from key stakeholders; target appropriate student populations; and include regular activities to educate students, counselors, principals, parents, and school board and community members. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The ECHS shall meet all of the Implementing criteria. The ECHS shall use either a performance-blind, open-access lottery system that encourages and considers applications from all students (all students have an equal opportunity for acceptance, regardless of background or academic performance) or a weighted lottery that favors students who are at risk or who are part of the targeted subpopulations for the ECHS.



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The Early College High School Blueprint

- Benchmark 1: Target Population
- Benchmark 2: Partnership Agreement
- Benchmark 3: P–16 Leadership Initiatives
- Benchmark 4: Curriculum and Support
- Benchmark 5: Academic Rigor and Readiness
- Benchmark 6: School Design



Table Talk Activity

- Individually, **read** the Benchmarks.
- Using guiding questions, **write** what your role is as it relates to the implementing and exemplar columns in each Benchmark (of your choice).
- Be ready to **share** current practice, challenges, and/or burning questions.



**Early College High Schools
change lives, by design.**

Texas Education Agency/Region 13

Texas ECHS Webpage

<http://txechs.com>

Texas Education Agency/Region 13

- Designation process
- Find an Early College in TX (keep your webpage current)
- Guidance through webinars, videos, downloads
- News and updates (ECHS PEIMS Indicator)
- Leadership support—ECHS leadership coach

Texas ECHS

<http://txechs.com>

Texas Education Agency/Region 13

Resources

- Statewide professional development opportunities
- Networking opportunities via regional consortiums
- Listserv communication: echs_principals@lists.esc13.net
- Jobs for the Future: www.jff.org/earlycollege

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ECHS Redesign Recommendations

- **Twelve minute overview** of draft recommendations
- Online in PDF format
- First Draft Recommendations—April 2017
- Second Draft Recommendations—May 2017
- TEA ECHS Recommendations—August 2017

Texas ECHS

www.tea.texas.gov/techs

Texas Education Agency ECHS Blueprint

Current Levels of Implementation	Redesign Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiating• Implementing• Exemplar	<p>Outcomes-based Measures with Data Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access• Achievement• Attainment

Additional Resources

TEA Early College-Curriculum Division

- www.tea.tx.gov

Texas ECHS Webpage

- <http://txechs.com>

Jobs for the Future

- www.jff.org/earlycollege

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

- <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>

College Board

- <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/prepare-for-accuplacer> (Brochure for students, interpreting TSI data, TSI test content, TSI sample questions, TSI Blueprint-TSI Strands, and Texas TEKS for college readiness)

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