

### OVERVIEW OF CHANGES

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), in collaboration with numerous stakeholders throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, has revised the Early College High School (ECHS) Blueprint.

The 2020-21 ECHS Blueprint has received changes to each of the six benchmarks: 1) target population, 2) partnership agreement, 3) leadership initiative, 4) curriculum and support, 5) academic rigor and readiness, and 6) school design.

Each benchmark includes language revisions to clarify expectations for model implementation and promote robust partnership with institutions of higher education.

Modifications have been made to the ECHS Blueprint's outcomes-based measures (OBMs) related to access, attainment, and achievement data indicators:

- **Access:**
  - Data indicators have been removed relating to:
    - 1) race, 2) ethnicity, and 3) gender.
- **Attainment:**
  - Data indicators have been removed relating to:
    - 1) dual credit English and Math courses, and 2) the accumulation of 30 college credits.
  - Data indicators have been added relating to:
    - 1) Texas Core Curriculum, 2) direct-to-college enrollment, and 3) a portfolio approach for offering college-level courses as early as 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **Achievement:**
  - Data indicators have been adjusted to:
    - 1) accommodate upcoming changes to the TSIA, and 2) align the Algebra I and English II EOC criteria to the Meets Grade Level Performance.
  - Data indicators have been added relating to SAT/ACT.

### BUILDING A ROBUST MODEL FOR TEXAS STUDENTS

- Modifications **meet scholars at their current level** of academic performance and provide pathway to postsecondary success.
- Partnership with colleges/universities is strengthened with greater **clarity regarding roles and responsibilities** for ECHS and their partners.
- Access OBM now considers **recruitment success** for at-risk and English learners in middle school who subsequently transition out of these programs.
- Access OBM comparison with district rate is eliminated if **>85% of ECHS enrollees are target population**.
- Attainment OBM includes transfer success and completion of milestones toward a baccalaureate degree, including **Texas Core Curriculum** and **direct-to-college enrollment**.
- Attainment OBM considers **persistence of 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort through ECHS program**, into 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Achievement and Attainment **OBM better aligned with CCMR Indicators** (e.g., inclusion of On-Ramps, AP/IB, SAT/ACT).
- Greater flexibility for TSIA with inclusion of **dual credit exemptions**.

## DESIGNATION PROCESS

The ECHS Blueprint outlines the Provisional and Designated ECHS requirements and changes in the way that Distinctions may be obtained.

- **Provisional Early College:** ECHS in the first 4 years of operation must demonstrate implementation of all design elements for each benchmark of the Blueprint and meet the Provisional ECHS OBMs.
- **Early College:** ECHS in 5<sup>th</sup>+ years of operation must maintain designation by demonstrating implementation of all design elements for each benchmark of the Blueprint and meet the Designated ECHS outcomes-based measures.

**Distinctions may be earned** by ECHSs in 5<sup>th</sup>+year of operation for exemplar service to students in Access, Attainment, and Achievement. An ECHS must demonstrate that all the design elements for each benchmark have been met and meet the Distinguished Early College OBMs in one or more of the OBM domains.

OBM are currently being phased in. They will be used to determine campus designation status for 2022-23, and thereafter.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2020 ECHS BLUEPRINT

The TEA is offering various opportunities to learn more about changes included in the ECHS Blueprint.

- TEA is presenting at the [2020 CCRSM Leadership Summit](#) (June 16<sup>th</sup>).
- An on-demand presentation 2020 ECHS Blueprint Revision (Webinar) is under development and will be available in June.
- An FAQ is under development and will be available in June.

Additional information on designation process may be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/early-college-high-school-echs>.

## P-TECH and T-STEM Access OBM Blueprint Revision

The 2020-21 ECHS Blueprint revision process resulted in modifications to the access OBM for the P-Tech and T-STEM Blueprints that go immediately into effect. TEA has removed OBM criteria related to race, ethnicity, and gender in **all CCRSM blueprints**. CCRSM schools will continue to receive this data in TEAL to guide programmatic decisions.

## 2020 BLUEPRINTS

[2020 ECHS Blueprint](#)  
[2020 P-TECH Blueprint](#)  
[2020 T-STEM Blueprint](#)

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding [Early College High School \(ECHS\)](#), [Pathways in Technology Early College High School \(P-TECH\)](#), or [Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics \(T-STEM\)](#), contact the CCRSM team at (512) 936-6060 or [CCRSM@tea.texas.gov](mailto:CCRSM@tea.texas.gov).