

General Description:

As part of TEA's College and Career Readiness School Models (CCRSM), Early College High Schools (ECHS) are innovative high schools that blend high school and college coursework to help historically underserved and at-risk students earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours simultaneously at no cost to students. ECHS campuses form strong partnerships with local business and industry and higher education. In addition, ECHS must offer students the opportunity to:

- Earn an associates degree or up to 60 college credit hours
- Participate in rigorous and accelerated instruction
- Obtain support for academic success
- Increase college readiness and reduce barriers to college access

Authority:

Texas Education Code (TEC), §29.908

Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §102.1091

ECHS Designation:

TEA provides opportunities for campuses to annually apply to TEA to become and maintain their ECHS designation. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, campuses interested in starting an ECHS apply to enter into an ECHS Planning Year. Campuses accepted into the ECHS Planning Year spend a year building partnerships and planning to implement the ECHS Blueprint design elements with student the following year. ECHS Planning Year campuses receive technical assistance from a TEA selected technical assistance provider. ECHS wanting to maintain their designation reapply each year to demonstrate they are meeting the ECHS Blueprint design elements and student Outcomes-Based Measures. Designated ECHS receive recognition as a TEA approved ECHS and technical assistance and support from a TEA selected technical assistance provider.

ECHS Blueprint:

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, TEA engaged with stakeholder groups across Texas and received public comment regarding recommendations to the ECHS Blueprint and Designation process. These recommendations were incorporated into the revised Blueprint and included Outcomes-Based Measures. ECHS campuses are required to meet the required design elements detailed in each of the Blueprint Benchmarks and the student Outcomes-Based Measures.

Funding:

Source: General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 49, 85th Texas Legislature, 2017

Use of Funds	FY 2018	FY 2019
ECHS technical assistance	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
ECHS professional development	\$500,000	
ECHS grants to schools	\$1,000,000	
ECHS online designation	\$30,000	\$30,000
ECHS planning year technical assistance	\$270,000	\$1,070,000
ECHS documentation of best/promising practices		\$700,000
TOTAL	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Total Projected Expenditures for the Biennium:		\$6,000,000

Resources: ECHS website- <http://www.tea.texas.gov/echs>

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Program Impact

2018-2019 Designated ECHS Campuses*

- 169 Designated ECHS
- 30 Planning Year Campuses

2017-2018 Designated ECHS Campuses

- 198 designated ECHS

2017-2018 Students served: 69,065

Models

- Stand-alone on high school campus
- Stand-alone on college/university campus
- Smaller learning community within a larger high school (School-within-School)

ECHS Blueprint Benchmarks

- Target Population
- Partnership Agreement
- P-16 Leadership Initiatives
- Curriculum and Support
- Academic Rigor and Readiness
- School Design

Outcomes-Based Measures

- Access
- Attainment
- Achievement

*prior to the 2018-2019 school year, some campuses held dual designations (ECHS and T-STEM). For 2018-2019 TEA required campuses to select a single model to implement with a cohort of students. In addition, TEA added 2 new models (P-TECH and ICIA). This caused a shift in the number of designees