



TEA announces early college high school designations

AUSTIN – Commissioner of Education Michael Williams today announced final approval of 44 Early College High School (ECHS) designations for the 2014-2015 school year. With these designations, Texas will become home to 109 ECHS campuses across the state.

Early college high schools are innovative high schools that allow students least likely to attend college an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and either an associate degree or at least 60 college credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree. Under the this model, an ECHS provides dual credit at no cost to students; offers rigorous instruction and accelerated courses; provides academic and social support services to help students succeed; increases college readiness; and reduces barriers to college access.

“Texas is a leader in the number of early college high schools thanks to districts and charters seeking to provide students this unique learning opportunity,” said Commissioner Williams. “Providing an opportunity to earn up to two years of college credit while still in high school not only benefits our students and families, but results in great benefits for our state as well.”

School districts, charters and campuses given final approval for a 2014-2015 ECHS designation include:

- Arlington ISD – Arlington Collegiate High School
- Balmorhea ISD – ECHS Academy
- Bastrop ISD – Bastrop Early College High School
- Brownsville ISD – Homer Hanna Early College High School
- Brownsville ISD – James Pace Early College High School
- Brownsville ISD – Lopez Early College High School
- Brownsville ISD – Simon Rivera Early College High School
- Brownsville ISD – Veterans Early College High School
- Chapel Hill ISD – Chapel Hill Early College High School (Tyler)
- Connally ISD – Connally Career Tech Early College High School
- Corpus Christi ISD – Harold T. Branch Academy for Career & Technical Education
- Dallas ISD – W.W. Samuell High School
- DeSoto ISD – DeSoto Early College High School
- Edinburg CISD – Early College High School at North
- Edinburg CISD – Robert Vela Early College High School
- Edcouch-Elsa ISD – Edcouch-Elsa Early College High School

- Elgin ISD – Elgin Early College and Career High School
- El Paso ISD – Burges Early College High School
- Everman ISD – Everman Early College High School
- Frank Madla High School – New Frontiers Charter School
- Grapevine-Colleyville ISD – Grapevine-Colleyville Early College High School
- Harlandale ISD – Harlandale ISD STEM Early College High School
- Houston ISD – South Early College High School
- Kingsville ISD – H.M. King High School
- Knippa ISD – Knippa Collegiate Early College High School
- La Joya ISD – La Joya Early College High School
- La Joya ISD – La Joya STEM Early College High School
- Marfa ISD – Marfa Early College High School
- Manor ISD – Manor High School
- Mathis ISD – Mathis Early College High School
- Monte Alto ISD – Monte Alto High School
- New Caney ISD – Infinity Early College High School
- Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD – Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School
- Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD – Sonia M. Sotomayor Early College High School
- Rankin ISD – Rankin Collegiate Academy
- Rio Grande City CISD – Preparatory for ECHS
- San Antonio ISD – Early College High School in San Antonio ISD
- Seguin ISD – Seguin Early College High School
- Shallowater ISD – Shallowater Early College High School at the Woodward Academy
- Sharyland ISD – Sharyland Advanced Academy
- Somerset ISD – Early College High School College Leadership Academy
- Southside ISD – Southside High School
- Texas College Preparatory Academies – iSchool High at The Woodlands
- Wharton ISD – ROAR Academy

A school district or charter must obtain an ECHS designation from TEA to allow high school students to enroll in more than two dual credit courses per semester and enroll in dual credit coursework with freshman or sophomore standing.

School districts and charters approved for an ECHS designation must complete technical assistance activities during the spring. In addition, a final, signed memorandum of understanding with an institution of higher education partner must be submitted to TEA before the start of the 2014 school year.

More information about early college high schools can be found on the TEA web site at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=4464&menu_id=814.

###