

**GRAND PRAIRIE ISD**  
**Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy**  
**Introduction to Education**

*Application Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2023*  
*Turn in completed applications to:*  
*Mrs. Henry*

A career in teaching can be highly challenging, intellectually demanding, and emotionally rewarding. However, the greatest benefit of teaching is the difference you make in the lives of your students. You can be confident knowing you have chosen a career that truly helps others. Teachers who love young children enjoy seeing the world from their perspective every day. Instilling a love of learning into a child's life or making him feel valued, are priceless benefits of teaching. With creativity and the right outlook, teaching never becomes boring. Opportunities for professional development and increased education are readily available. Learning never stops in the field of education.

The job schedule in Education can be a major advantage. Even when the extra hours outside the required workday are calculated, teachers on average work the same or fewer hours than typical professionals working year-round. Educators have the coveted summer vacation, in addition to winter and spring breaks, which provide time to spend with family and friends, and recharge for another school year. Also, the schedule works well for raising children. Educators have the same schedule as their children once they are school age, which allows them availability for their children's after school events and holidays. Teachers do earn a steady income, and it is rewarding to receive paychecks during the summer months. In addition to the salary, teachers typically have excellent health care and retirement packages that add value to the job.

There are five requirements to become a certified teacher in Texas:

- Earn a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university.
- Complete an educator preparation program through a college, university, or alternative certification program.
- Pass the Texas teacher certification exams
- Submit a state application
- Complete fingerprinting and a criminal background check



**Learn. Educate. Change.**



## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL, and YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

#### **1. What is the GPISD Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy?**

In the spring of 2016, the Grand Prairie Independent School District and University of Texas at Arlington joined together in a cooperative effort to design and implement a dual-credit education preparatory program within the Grand Prairie ISD and leading to a four-year degree and teacher certification in Early Childhood through 6<sup>th</sup> grade with a Bilingual or ESL focus. The result of this collaboration is a two-year program at the high school level that will enable participants to earn a total of four academic & four elective high school credits, and 30 hours of college credit. The first classes of the Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy started fall of 2017.

Applications will be accepted from students at Grand Prairie High School, South Grand Prairie High School, and Young Women's Leadership Academy Education & Leadership Preparatory pathway in their sophomore year. Classes will be conducted every day for two consecutive periods with college professors teaching portions of the classes. Dual-credit classes may be held on the college campus or on GPISD campuses. There will also be some Saturday field trips, dual-credit assessment dates, and other program activities. Since the GPISD and UTA academic calendars may differ, students may be required to attend their UTA classes on occasion when GPISD is closed. GPISD will provide transportation to class locations. Selected GPISD high school students will start the program at the beginning of their junior year and continue until the end of their senior year.

#### **2. What are the benefits for students who choose to participate in the program?**

- Upon graduation, students should have 30 or more hours of college credit through University of Texas at Arlington. These hours may be applied toward a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Degree.
- Students will participate in field experiences through UTA and various intern experiences through the Grand Prairie ISD.
- In addition to a high school diploma, students who have completed the Education & Leadership Preparatory Program will receive a pending contract to become an Educator in Grand Prairie ISD upon earning the college degree and teacher certification.
- Upon high school graduation, students who continue on to UTA in the College of Education will be offered a Teacher Aide position with Grand Prairie ISD for employment during college.
- During the UTA junior and senior years, students will be eligible and prepared to take the TExES EC-6 certification exams.
- Upon earning the college degree, students may apply for teacher certification.
- Upon earning the college degree and teacher certification, students will be eligible to teach in the elementary school ESL and Bilingual shortage areas in the state of Texas.
- Students will earn four elective high school credits (Instructional Practice in Education & Leadership Training, Practicum in Education & Leadership Training) as well as four academic high school credits (English 3, 4<sup>th</sup> year English & Math, and Government & Economics).
- Students will be prepared to pursue a career in Education in Texas.
- Students will develop professional life skills in preparation for a career in Education.
- Students will be encouraged to embrace the ideas of nurturing tomorrow's future.

**3. When did the program officially begin operation?**

The first class of 25 students began in the fall of 2017.

**4. What is the official name of the education program in GPISD?**

The Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy at Grand Prairie High School, South Grand Prairie High School, and Young Women's Leadership Academy.

**5. What are the goals of the program?**

- Provide participating students with a broad range of Education experiences and a pathway into the Education profession.
- "Growing Our Own" by creating a teacher pipeline for hiring exceptional teachers in GPISD.
- Identify and prepare outstanding GPISD students to be future teachers in Grand Prairie ISD.
- Strengthen ties among the school district, UTA, and the community.
- Being prepared for the impending teacher shortage in the State of Texas

**6. What is the organizational framework for the program?**

The Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy at Grand Prairie High School, South Grand Prairie High School, and Young Women's Leadership Academy is a cooperative effort of the Grand Prairie Independent School District and the University of Texas at Arlington. Dual-credit classes may be held on the UT Arlington campus or on GPISD campuses. Some classes will be taught by UTA faculty members.

**7. How are students made aware of the GPHS, SGPHS, and YWLA Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy?**

The courses are listed in the high school Course Description Handbook, which all students can access either in print form or online. Counselors at each high school meet with students annually to talk about elective courses available to students. GPISD applications are available in the counseling office or with the Education teachers.

University of Texas at Arlington personnel visit campuses to promote the program, interacting with students and answering questions.

**8. Is the program available to students from all Grand Prairie high schools?**

No. Students are only selected from the Education & Leadership Preparatory pathways at GPHS, SGPHS, and YWLA.

**9. What are the prerequisites for the program?**

- Be a junior at the beginning of the fall in which you will enter the program
- Be eligible to enroll as a dual credit student at UTA
  - Must have and maintain overall high school GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Willing to commit to a 2-year program
- Willing to commit to some required Saturday activities & some UTA classes during GPISD student holidays
- Attend parent orientation meeting
- Good attendance and discipline history
- Complete dual-credit application
- Successfully pass TSI reading, writing, and math subtests prior to entering program
- \$200 lab fee broken up between two years in payments (*In comparison, minimum standard UTA tuition & fees for a student NOT enrolled in this GPISD-UTA program would be \$9,538 according to the fall 2017 UTA charts.*)

**10. What are the steps in the application process?**

- GPISD Application:
  - Will be screened for grades, attendance, and discipline
  - Includes an essay (typed or neatly hand-written)
- Interview by panel of GPISD and UTA personnel

**11. How many students are selected?**

We will select approximately 25 incoming juniors at each High School (GPHS, SGPHS, and YWLA) each year, for a total of 75 students joining the program each year.

**12. What instructional resources are used?**

UTA course syllabus, curriculum, and textbooks

**13. What are the policies on discipline, absences and tardiness?**

The GPISD Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy is a series of dual-credit classes and is an opportunity for students to prepare for a rewarding career in Education. The program includes high expectations for respectful and professional behavior and excellent attendance. Students will receive a Code of Conduct which will be followed at all times. In addition, students should also reference the GPISD Dual-Credit Handbook on the GPISD website.

**GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**APPLICATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy**

**Prerequisites for application:**

- Be in 11<sup>th</sup> grade at the beginning of the fall in which you will enter the program
- Overall high school GPA of 3.5 or higher with good attendance and discipline history
- Willing to commit to a two-year program
- Willing to commit to some required activities on Saturdays and/or GPISD student holidays
- \$200 lab fee broken up between two years in payments

**DUE DATE:**

**Friday, January 17, 2020**

**Turn in completed applications to:**

**Mrs. Henry**

**NOTE: Classes will be conducted every day for two consecutive periods with college professors teaching portions of the classes on UTA campus.**

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT I.D. NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation available to you: Your car \_\_\_\_\_ Parents \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Check your preferred focus area:

☐ Bilingual Education (must be fluent in Spanish)

☐ English as a Second Language Education

**ESSAY: Attach a one-page essay telling why you want a career in Education and why you think you should be selected for participation in this program. The essay may be neatly hand-written or typed and printed.**

**TRANSCRIPT: The Counseling Office will provide this for you. You do not need to attach a copy.**

The program has a limited number of spaces available. All applications will be screened for grades, attendance, and discipline. A committee of the Grand Prairie Independent School District personnel and University of Texas at Arlington personnel will review the applications and select those students to be interviewed. The committee will then make its final selections from those interviewed.

I understand I will be required to meet certain responsibilities, which include following the rules and regulations of the Grand Prairie ISD and University of Texas at Arlington.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Student

Date

I support the above named student's application to participate in the program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian

Date

**Nondiscrimination Policy: It is the policy of the Grand Prairie Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or handicap in its career and technical programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973, as amended.**



**STUDENT RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS  
FROM THE STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

Section 99.31 of the Department of Education's "Family Educational Rights and Privacy (Act), Final Regulations", provides that prior consent of the student for disclosure of information found in the student's educational record, is not required when such disclosure is made to a parent of a dependent student as defined in Section 152 of the Internal Revenue code of 1954. **By making and signing this request, the student attests that he/she is a parent's dependent on his/her parents' income tax as defined by the Internal Revenue Code.** If this dependency changes during the student's time at UT Arlington, it is the responsibility of the student to notify UT Arlington to revoke parental access to educational records.

Please send a statement of this change in writing to:

**University of Texas at Arlington, Office of Admissions, Records and Registration,  
Box 19088, Arlington, TX 76019.**

Name of the Student: \_\_\_\_\_ UTA ID: 1 0 0

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I give my permission to the University of Texas at Arlington to provide information about my educational records to my parents\*. This permission will be in effect until I revoke it in writing to:  
University of Texas at Arlington, Office of Admissions, Records and Registration,  
Box 19088, Arlington, TX 76019.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\*Please Print Parent's/Legal Guardian's Name(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed form to:**  
University of Texas at Arlington  
Office of Admissions, Records and Registration  
Box 19088  
Arlington, TX 76019

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Form processe d by: _____ (Signature of UTA employee)	On _____ (Date)

**NOTE: Unless revoked sooner by the student named above, this request will be terminated by the Office of Admissions, Records and Registration four years from the date of this request.**

\*You may be entitled to know what information UT Arlington (UTA) collects concerning you. You may review and have UTA correct this information according to procedures set forth in UT System BPM #32. The law is found in sections 552.021, 552.023 and 559.004 of the Texas Government Code.