



GPISD Introduces Early College High School

our newest school of choice
at GPHS and SGPHS beginning
in the 2015-2016 school year.

GPISD's Early College High Schools (ECHS) will be located at both Grand Prairie High School and South Grand Prairie High School campuses.

ECHS is a small high school designed to offer students a personalized and supportive college-preparatory instructional environment, as well as a combined high school and college curriculum. Students have the opportunity to graduate with an Associate degree/60 college hours, or half of their bachelor's degree tuition-free.

By combining high school and college classes, students will have the opportunity to complete requirements to enroll as a junior at a university upon graduation.

What does an Early College High School offer?

- It creates a means to higher education for first-generation college-going students
- Provide dual credit at no cost to students
- Course work mimics a college setting, plus students receive intense academic counseling to help them develop skills essential for post-secondary success
- Increase college attendance and success rates for all students
- Strengthen the connections between middle schools, high schools, and higher education to promote a statewide college-going culture
- Free college tuition for the first 60 hours; opportunity for Associate's degree/60 college hours upon graduation.
- Assistance for under-represented students pursuing a higher education.
- Take advantage of both a high school and college environment.
- Start college courses in your freshman year of high school.

What makes Early College High School different?

- Early College High School class sizes are limited to provide highly-personalized attention and to encourage the development of lasting peer and teacher relationships.
- Early College High School campuses foster a college-going culture where the majority of students are traditionally under-represented or low-performing.
- A blended high school and college curriculum exposes students to all education disciplines with a special emphasis on science, math, engineering, healthcare, biotechnology and technology.
- Professional development training for Early College High School teachers focuses on creating an academic culture that enables struggling learners to achieve success in college courses on the accelerated timeline of an early college high school.

What is the difference between an Early College High School and Dual Credit?

ECHS	Dual Credit
Provides 60 hours of college credit	Typically offers between 12 and 30 hours of college credit
Students typically begin taking dual credit as early as ninth grade	Students usually begin taking dual credit courses in the 11th or 12th grade
Academic, social, and emotional support programs are required for all students	Support services vary



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