



2022-2024 Early College High School (ECHS) Planning and Implementation Grant
COMPETITIVE GRANT Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, November 9, 2021

NOGA ID

Authorizing Legislation **GAA, Article III, Rider 48, 87th Texas Legislature; TEC 29.908(b) and TAC 102.1091**

TEA will only accept grant application documents by email, including competitive grant applications and amendments. Submit grant applications and amendments as follows:

Competitive grant applications and amendments to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov

Application stamp-in date and time

Grant period from **March 1, 2022 – June 15, 2024**

Pre-award costs are not permitted.

Required Attachments

All attachments listed on pages 15-16 of the Program Guidelines.

Amendment Number

Amendment Number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to apply for grant funds):

Applicant Information

Organization CDN Vendor ID ESC DUNS

Address City ZIP Phone

Primary Contact Email Phone

Secondary Contact Email Phone

Certification and Incorporation

I understand that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by TEA or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement. I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and that the organization named above has authorized me as its representative to obligate this organization in a legally binding contractual agreement. I certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

I further certify my acceptance of the requirements conveyed in the following portions of the grant application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the grant application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- Grant application, guidelines, and instructions
- General Provisions and Assurances
- Application-specific Provisions and Assurances
- Debarment and Suspension Certification
- Lobbying Certification
- NCLB Provisions and Assurances requirements

Authorized Official Name Title

Email Phone

Signature Date

Grant Writer Name Signature Date

Grant writer is an employee of the applicant organization. Grant writer is not an employee of the applicant organization.

Shared Services Arrangements

SSAs are **not permitted** for this grant.

Identify/Address Needs

List up to three quantifiable needs, as identified in your needs assessment, that these program funds will address. Describe your plan for addressing each need.

Quantifiable Need	Plan for Addressing Need
To maintain, promote, and improve the standing partnership between Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) and Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (UCISD) to increase academic opportunities and post-secondary student success.	Uvalde ECHS will increase parent and community involvement in the program, and will maintain a parent and community outreach plan with a detailed calendar of events, which will include parent information nights and recruitment events. The outreach plan will be posted online for parents and the community.
To promote equitable access and post-secondary success by systematically identifying, recruiting, and prioritizing at-risk students.	Uvalde ECHS will prioritize the identification and recruitment of at-risk students. Recruitment efforts will include a strong social media and marketing campaign. ECHS students will then be provided all reasonable and necessary items needed for their college experience. This will include campus visits.
To mitigate the learning gaps caused by the Covid-19 pandemic by expanding post-secondary program offerings.	Uvalde ECHS has a strong partnership with Southwest Texas Junior College, which will help facilitate the expansion of post-secondary program offerings.

SMART Goal

Describe the summative SMART goal you have identified for this program (a goal that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely), either related to student outcome or consistent with the purpose of the grant.

Through our partnership with Southwest Texas Junior College, we will maintain, promote, and improve our recruitment, projected to grow to 100 students per grade level by 2023. The frequency of parent and community involvement activities will also increase significantly. With at least 2 parent meetings per semester and at least 3 recruitment events per year. UECHS expects to significantly increase the number of students graduating with associates degrees for each consecutive cohort, with at least 35 students graduating with an associates degree or 60 college hours by 2023.

Measurable Progress

Identify the benchmarks that you will use at the end of the first three grant quarters to measure progress toward meeting the process and implementation goals defined for the grant. See pg. 18 of the Program Guidelines for detailed instructions for identifying benchmarks.

First-Quarter Benchmark

By the end of the first quarter, the incoming Uvalde Early College High School freshman cohort should consist of at least 100 students identified and recruited. The Uvalde ECHS Steering committee will meet to review progress, recruitment, retention, and academic success. All required products will also be reviewed by the steering committee. All tutoring and socio-emotional services will be fully operational. The newly recruited ECHS interventionists will provide academic tutoring to ECHS students during college non-instructional days. The ECHS counselor will prepare socio-emotional learning (SEL) presentations for student meetings and provide SEL services as needed.

Measurable Progress (Cont.)**Second-Quarter Benchmark**

By the end of the second quarter, each cohort will have visited at least one college campus each year. Uvalde ECHS will continue to offer after school tutoring, academic support, and socio-emotional services. All Outcomes-Based Measures will be monitored by cohort and reviewed by the end of the second quarter by the Uvalde ECHS director. The ECHS Steering Committee will meet again to discuss program effectiveness, OBM progress, student success, recruitment and retention efforts. The branding campaign will help promote the program and improve the identification and recruitment of prospective ECHS students.

Third-Quarter Benchmark

By the end of the third quarter, Uvalde Early College High School should have at least 35 students on track to graduate with an associate degree or 60 college hours from Southwest Texas Junior College. Uvalde ECHS will have also hosted at least 4 parent meetings and at three recruiting events. The ECHS Steering Committee will meet again to discuss OBMs, recruitment, and retainment.

Project Evaluation and Modification

Describe how you will use project evaluation data to determine when and how to modify your program. If your benchmarks do not show progress towards meeting your summative SMART goal, describe how you will use evaluation data to modify your program for sustainability.

The Uvalde ECHS team will meet weekly to discuss program implementation and progress monitoring. Meeting information will be documented in detailed agendas. If adjustments or modifications are needed, the team will work to correct them as soon as possible.

The ECHS director will maintain a Communications and Stakeholder Outreach Plan and Timeline, posted and updated regularly in the Uvalde ECHS website. In addition, Uvalde ECHS will have strong communication through social media. The Facebook page will be regularly updated and maintained in effort to keep parents and community members informed of upcoming events or important deadlines. Culture and climate surveys will be administered at least twice a year to monitor perceptions of the program. There will be at least two parent meetings per semester, and at least three recruitment events per year.

The Summer Bridge Camp will help students be successful in the TSIA exams. Detailed information on the curriculum and activities will be posted on the school website. In addition, the campus testing coordinator will keep an updated website with useful information regarding TSIA testing, tutoring, and support services.

The ECHS director and the ECHS leadership team will meet regularly to track progress on Outcomes-Based Measures, TSIA participation and success, and program monitoring, and ECHS PLC data. Teachers will be provided with coaching and feedback on their lesson plans and instructional practice. They will also maintain current teacher action plans for all struggling or failing ECHS students.

The ECHS director will also meet regularly with the attendance committee to identify and provide support to ECHS students with excessive absences.

Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee must comply with these assurances.

Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- 1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this grant will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
- 2. The applicant provides assurance that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
- 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all Statutory Requirements, TEA Program Requirements, and Performance Measures, as noted in the 2022–2024 Early College High School (ECHS) Planning and Implementation Program Guidelines, and shall provide the Texas Education Agency, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the grant program.
- 4. Required by statute: The ECHS campus will provide participating students with flexibility in class scheduling and academic mentoring.
- 5. Required by statute: The ECHS campus will be open enrollment. Enrollment decisions will not be based on state assessment scores, discipline, history, teacher recommendations, minimum grade point average (GPA) or any other criteria that create barriers for student enrollment.
- 6. Required by statute: The ECHS campus will allow participating students to complete high school and, on or before the fifth anniversary of the date of the student's first day of high school: receive both a high school diploma and either an associate degree or at least 60 credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree.
- 7. Required by statute: ECHS programming will be provided at no cost to participating students. The school district or charter shall pay tuition, fees, and required textbooks, to the extent those charges are not waived by the institution of higher education.
- 8. Programmatic-Specific Assurance: The ECHS campus will implement the design elements included within the 6 benchmarks of the model's [2020-21 ECHS Blueprint](#) and strive to fulfill the state standard for student success as measured by the outcomes-based measures.

Statutory Requirements

1. The ECHS campus must establish recruitment and enrollment processes and requirements that will not exclude or discourage the enrollment of any of the subpopulations of at-risk students, including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency or who have failed a state administered assessment. **Describe the recruitment and enrollment plan. Include a general timeline and describe the specific activities planned to serve the target population.**

Uvalde ECHS shall identify, recruit, and enroll the subpopulations of at-risk students (as defined by PEIMS), including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, or students who have failed a state administered assessment. Enrollment decisions shall not be based on state assessment scores, discipline history, teacher recommendation, parent or student essays, minimum grade point average (GPA), or other criteria that create barriers for student enrollment.

For admissions, Uvalde ECHS shall use either a performance-blind, weighted lottery that favors students who are at risk or who are part of the targeted subpopulations of Uvalde ECHS. We encourage all students to apply.

Applications must be completed electronically on or before April 15, 2022.

Students accepted into the program will be notified through email by April 22, 2022. Parents will be invited to participate in information sessions offered. Students will have to attend Summer Bridge Camp in June in preparation for TSIA testing.

2. The ECHS campus must provide a course of study that enables participation students in grades 9-12 to earn a high school diploma, earn an associate degree or up to 60 college credit hours. **Describe the course of study/crosswalk that the school is planning to offer and how it expands upon current offerings to enhance and build an academic pathway. Describe how the course of study will enable a student to combine high school courses and postsecondary courses and identify degrees/certificate/certifications to be earned. Describe how the postsecondary credentials earned meet local economic needs.**

SWTJC will award credit for college courses which have been approved by UCISD Administration as fulfilling TEKS and other requirements for High School credit and have been approved by SWTJC Administration and Faculty for credit applying to an SWTJC certificate or degree. These courses shall have been evaluated and approved through the official college curriculum approval process in accordance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requirements and TEA requirements for high school graduation and shall be at a more advanced level than courses taught at the high school level. The crosswalk indicating the credit hour relationship between SWTJC courses and High School courses is attached in the grant application. The values provided in the Crosswalk for High School credit are typical; each UCISD decides on the credit it will award a student who successfully completes a college course. The goal is for students to receive a high school diploma and either an Associate's of Art in General Studies degree or 60 semester hours toward a baccalaureate degree during grades 9-12

Statutory Requirements (Cont'd)

2. Continued: Please use the additional space provided to respond to Statutory Requirement #2

[Empty response box for Statutory Requirement #2]

3. The ECHS campus must enter into an articulation agreement with IHEs that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.25. The articulation agreement must provide a participating student access to postsecondary opportunities at the IHE and must address each of the following items: a)Curriculum Alignment, b) Instructional Materials, c) Instructional Calendar, d) Courses of Study, e) Student Enrollment and Attendance, f) Grading Periods and Policies, and g) Administration of Statewide Assessment Instruments. **Name the IHE and describe how the proposed program will meet the ECHS Blueprint requirements (listed above) for the ECHS partnerships with the IHE.**

Uvalde Early College High School is a campus-wide program that is targeted towards low- income, first generation college goers, students who are highly motivated but have not received the academic preparation necessary to meet higher educational standards, students who are English learners, students for whom a smooth transition into postsecondary education is now problematic, including low- income students, students whose family obligations keep them at home, and students for whom the cost of college is prohibitive; and Uvalde ECHS is a school with an approximate enrollment of 400 students who can earn both a high school diploma, and up to 60 hours of college credit.

Statutory Requirements (Cont'd)

3. Continued: Please use the additional space provided to respond to Statutory Requirement #3

Uvalde Early College High School will prepare high school students for successful careers and academic futures through a full integration of high school, college, the world of work, improve academic performance and self-concept, and increase high school and college/university completion rates.

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT:

Uvalde ECHS and SWTJC will work together to ensure vertical alignment of curriculum and focus that promotes a college-going culture by all parties, teachers, college faculty, counselors, and academic advisors. They will also collaborate in planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of the Uvalde Early College High School program including the provision for faculty, staff, and administration; curriculum development; training; and student services.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

UCISD will ensure all ECHS students have the adequate instructional materials needed for their coursework. In addition, SWTJC will provide dual enrolled students access to the instructional and digital resources available on campus.

INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR:

The instructional calendar for Uvalde ECHS will be the same as the one for UCISD.

Program Requirements

1. The ECHS campus must establish a Leadership Design Team to guide the campus to begin serving students in the ECHS and provide leadership for the campus regarding ECHS. Leadership Design team members are outlined in the ECHS Blueprint. **Describe those who will participate on the ECHS Leadership Team. Include a list of the individuals and their titles, along with how often the ECHS Leadership Team will meet, the dates of meetings that have already been held, the proposed meeting schedule for the 2021-2022 with corresponding meeting agenda topics.**

- Dr. Hal Harrell - UCISD Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Michael Rodriguez - UCISD Deputy Superintendent
- Mr. Randall Harris - Uvalde High School Principal
- Mr. Mario Ferron - Uvalde ECHS Administrator
- Mrs. Sonia Tapia - Uvalde ECHS Counselor
- Dr. Mark Underwood - SWTJC Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Mr. Charles Garabedian - SWTJC Dean of Instructional Services and School District Partnerships
- Mrs. Blair Dorris - UCISD Advanced Academics Director
- Mrs. Josefina Castillo - Uvalde ECHS ELAR Teacher
- Mr. Bernard Bujard - Uvalde ECHS Science Teacher

Program Requirements

1. Continued: Please use the additional space provided to respond to Program Requirement #1

The ECHS Steering Committee meets quarterly. It will serve as an advisory committee to the UCISD Superintendent and the SWTJC President in establishing policies and developing a coherent program across institutions. It will evaluate the effectiveness of the collaboration each academic year. The results will be reported to UCISD and SWTJC Boards of Trustees.

The last Steering Committee meeting occurred in 9/14/202. The items on the agenda included:

- 1) Review of ECHS Data
- 2) Review of Enrollment
- 3) Designation Status
- 4) Covid-19 Mitigation
- 5) Strategic Planning
- 6) Marketing
- 7) Progress Monitoring
- 8) Logistics (Textbook ordering and transportation)

2. The ECHS campus must develop wrap-around strategies and services involving multiple stakeholders (parents, teachers, counselors, community members, etc.) to strengthen both the academic and social/emotional skills necessary for high school and college readiness and to be successful in rigorous academic and work- based educational experiences. **Describe the current wrap-around strategies and services the campus is offering, as well as the additional strategies and services that are planned to support the ECHS.**

CURRENT:

- TSIA Tutorials and Resource Website
- Summer Bridge Camp, where incoming 9th grade ECHS students receive help for TSIA
- Advanced Academics Support Services
- Ipads for all students
- SAT/PSAT Testing
- FAFSA Nights
- Parent and Community Outreach
- Academic tutoring

ADDITIONAL (GRANT FUNDED):

- ECHS Academic Counselor will provide Socio-Emotional Learning support to students.
- ECHS Secretary will assist the ECHS Counselor and ECHS Director with program logistics
- ECHS Interventionists will assist students taking Zoom classes.
- Additional computer equipment will be purchased to prepare an additional ECHS classroom.

Request for Grant Funds

List all of the allowable grant-related activities for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the amounts budgeted for each activity. Group similar activities and costs together under the appropriate heading. During negotiation, you will be required to budget your planned expenditures on a separate attachment provided by TEA. See Program Guidelines, pages 11-12, for detailed instructions on use of grant funds.

PAYROLL COSTS (6100)

BUDGET

ECHS Counselor Salary

\$73,580

ECHS Instructional Site Coordinator

\$30,191

ECHS Instructional Interventionist

\$27,736

ECHS Instructional Interventionist

\$27,736

PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTED SERVICES (6200)

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS (6300)

OTHER OPERATING COSTS (6400)

CAPITAL OUTLAY (6600)

Computer Equipment for Zoom Classrooms

\$15,757

DIRECT AND INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST \$175,000

Appendix I: Negotiation and Amendments (leave this section blank when completing the initial application for funding)

An amendment must be submitted when the program plan or budget is altered for the reasons described in the "When to Amend the Application" document posted on the [Administering a Grant](#) page of the TEA website and may be emailed to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov Include all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed copy of page 1 of the application. More detailed amendment instructions can be found on the last page of the budget template.

You may duplicate this page

Negotiated/Amended Section

For amendments: Choose the section you wish to amend from the drop down menu.

Negotiated Change/Amendment

For amendments: Describe the changes you are making and the reason for them. Always work with the most recent negotiated or amended application. If you are requesting a revised budget, please include the budget attachments with your amendment.

FOR TEA USE ONLY
Changes confirmed with _____ on this date _____
Via phone/fax/email by TEA staff person _____

FOR TEA USE ONLY
Changes confirmed with _____ on this date _____
Via phone/fax/email by TEA staff person _____

FOR TEA USE ONLY
Changes confirmed with _____ on this date _____
Via phone/fax/email by TEA staff person _____

FOR TEA USE ONLY
Changes confirmed with _____ on this date _____
Via phone/fax/email by TEA staff person _____

FOR TEA USE ONLY
Changes confirmed with _____ on this date _____
Via phone/fax/email by TEA staff person _____
