

Presentation to NISD School Board (Academics Committee)

Early College High School (ECHS) Overview

Jay High School

July 2024

What is an ECHS?

The Early College High School (ECHS) initiative is an open-enrollment program that blends college and high school coursework, enabling students to earn up to two years of college credit (60 hours), tuition-free, while enrolled in high school. This program aims to support historically underserved and at-risk students, providing an access ramp to postsecondary education for those most in need.

Purpose:

Early College High School (ECHS) programs are designed to provide high school students, especially those from underserved backgrounds, with the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit simultaneously. The main purposes of ECHS programs are:

1. **Increase College Access and Completion:** By offering college courses during high school, ECHS programs aim to increase the number of students who pursue and complete higher education.
2. **Reduce Barriers to Higher Education:** ECHS programs target students who might face financial, social, or academic barriers to college. By providing free college courses, they help alleviate the financial burden of higher education.
3. **Accelerate Academic Achievement:** Students in ECHS programs can earn an associate degree or up to two years of college credit by the time they graduate from high school, accelerating their academic progress and reducing the time and cost needed to complete a college degree.
4. **Support Underserved Students:** ECHS programs often focus on first-generation college students, low-income students, and students of color, providing them with the support and resources needed to succeed in both high school and college.
5. **Foster a College-Going Culture:** By integrating the high school and college experiences, ECHS programs aim to create a seamless transition to college and instill a college-going mindset among students.

Program of Study:

We propose that the students at John Jay ECHS will earn an **Associate's Degree of Arts (AA) in Humanities** while obtaining their high school diploma. Students would graduate from Northwest Vista College at the same time they graduate from high school. All courses would be taken at Jay High School. The courses taken at Jay ECHS are designed to meet the Core Curriculum, commonly referred to as the Core 42. The Core 42 is a set of 42 credit hours of general education courses that are guaranteed to transfer among all public colleges and universities in Texas.

Proposed Timeline for Implementation:

June 2024: Met with Jay Administration to propose ECHS plan

July 2024: Met with Alamo College and Northwest Vista Reps to confirm class offerings

September 2024: Apply to TEA for ECHS status

October - December 2024: Communication, Marketing and Recruitment of Students

December 2024 - February 2025: Jay ECHS and Apply Texas Applications

March 2025 (before Spring Break) : Scheduling and confirmation of students

March 2025 (after Spring Break) : Post DC teacher Job Postings

April - May 2025: Hiring DC teachers

April 2025: Parent Meeting for incoming 9th grade students

Summer 2025: Hire ECHS Program Coordinator

Fall 2025: First 9th grade cohort begins